

LESSON 4 OF 10

Grid Art

by Debi West

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

High-school “Art 1” students will ...

- learn the importance of drawing what they see by using the element of Value in an artwork.
- learn to create seven shades of gray scales from one pencil and use these value scales to draw from a gridded black-and-white image.

MATERIALS

- 12" x 18" white drawing paper
- Graphite pencils
- Erasers
- Rulers
- Photocopies of black-and-white reference photographs

PROCEDURES

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing the importance of value in an artwork.
2. Students will learn to make their own 7-toned value scale (black, dark-dark gray, dark gray, gray (middle tone), light gray, light-light gray and white).
3. Students will then select a reproduced, provided, black-and-white photograph and grid it out.
4. Students will grid out their paper, so that the same number of grid squares appear.
5. Students will turn their photograph upside down, focusing on the elements, not the objects in the image.
6. Students will then begin to draw what they see (line, shape and value) and place this into the grid.
7. Students will work slowly and upside down, so that they are not stressed with having to draw a “person” or a “zebra,” and so on. I remind them that they are merely drawing lines, shapes and adding values and then a “person” or a “zebra” will appear (this is the most successful way to teach this technique, setting everyone up for success).
8. Students will work for about a week to complete this 12" x 18" final drawing.
9. Final art works will be mounted and hung in a class display and critiqued. This lesson is wonderful in that students are very proud of what they created using this grid art / value study technique.

ASSESSMENT

We do in-process critiques using my “2 Glows and a Grow” model: Each student selects a classmate’s work that speaks to him/her and attaches three notes—two with what works, and one with what the artist might want to consider or change. There is also an evaluation form that prompts students to appropriately reflect on the learning at hand and provides space for them to comment on the process and how they feel their final piece turned out. There is also space for me to comment and give them a grade based on their learning and the final work.