"Melted Crayon Stencils"

Objective: Create positive and negative space image using a stencil.

Materials

- Canvas Boards
- 1" Masking Tape and X-ACTO Blades
- Crayons
- Hair Dryers
- Pliers

Motivation

- Talk about the melted crayon art seen on Pinterest. What do students think about it?

- Discuss positive and negative space. Show examples of cool images created using just dark and light.

- Watch this video which demonstrates the stencil process used in this lesson.

Step 1: Draw

Have students lightly draw their images onto their white canvas boards. Then, they must determine which parts of their images are highlights and which are lowlights. This step could be done beforehand by using a graphic design program or after the drawing has been made by the student.

Step 2: Add Tape

All highlight areas need to be taped off using the masking tape. Lowlights, or areas intended to be colored, will be left exposed. Have students purposefully tape past the boundaries of their white shapes (overlap onto their dark shapes) and then use an X-ACTO blade to score and remove the tape for the cleanest possible edge.

Step 3: Melt Crayons and Peel Tape

Have students choose a few crayon colors that look good together. Avoid complimentary colors as they will turn muddy. Have students hold the crayons with pliers then apply heat from the blow dryers. The crayons take some time to warm up, but once the wax starts flowing, this step goes very quickly. Caution students not to over-mix their melted wax. It's important for them to realize a good place to stop. When finished, peel off the tape.

Tip: The tape won't resist the wax 100% of the time. Have some white acrylic paint on hand for minor touchups.

Tip: Be sure you know where your fuse box is located!