MIXED MEDIA JAZZ

KATHY OLSON
Art Specialist at Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts
Vista Unified School District
kathyolson@vistausd.org

Grade Level: UPPER ELEMENTARY

Background Information:
This project integrates with a study of the history of American Jazz music. Fourth grade students at Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts attended an assembly with a jazz quartet, and also studied famous jazz musicians in music class and their homeroom. In art class we watched a video about jazz music, famous musicians, and instruments.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whN5PXsrP6E  A History of Jazz
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkORhAHXj3o   A Child’s Introduction to Jazz
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhiSqi_9Yvo  What is Jazz Music

Songza website – Genre: Jazz, Essential Jazz for great music to play during class

Content Standards:
2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION
4.2.7 Use contrast expressively in an original work of art
4.2.8 Use complementary colors in an original composition to show contrast and emphasis.
3.0 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
4.3.1 Describe how art plays a role in reflecting life
5.0 CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS
4.5.3 Construct illustrations to communicate ideas about an historical event.

Common Core Content Standards:
W.4.2.A I can write an informative text that introduces my topic and then groups related information together in paragraphs or sections.

Learning Objectives:
Students will use their knowledge of jazz music to create a mixed media work of art that expresses the mood and feeling of jazz. They will use contrast, complementary colors and good composition in their work.

Vocabulary:
Jazz
Mixed media
Contrast
Complementary colors
Composition
Focal point
Emphasis
Movement
Rhythm

Materials:
Reference clip art of instruments, music symbols, and early jazz musician photos
Heavy substrate – 12x18 watercolor paper or posterboard if possible
Scissors
Glue
Black crayons
Watercolors or Tempera Cakes
Brushes and water

Procedure:
• Review with students their prior knowledge of the history of jazz music and show a selected video about jazz.
• Introduce project by showing project samples.
• Students choose 2–3 musician photos, cut or tear out, and glue onto their background paper.
• Using pencil, draw a large instrument that fills the space touching at least 2 edges. This creates a focal point.
• Add other instruments, music symbols, musical staff, etc. to create an interesting composition. Diagonal and curving lines will add movement. Repetition of objects or symbols will create rhythm.
• Outline with strong black crayon lines, adding symbols as needed.
• Paint with watercolor or tempera cakes using bright, vibrant color. Be sure to use complementary colors and contrast to emphasize your focal point. Paint over the photos, too.
• When dry, more black crayon outlining can be added if desired.

Assessment and/or Evaluation:
Students can write how their art reflects an aspect of jazz music and/or an informative or biographical paragraph or report about jazz or a particular musician.

Sample evaluation questions:
What is your focal point and how did you create it?
How did you use contrast to express the mood and feeling of jazz?
How does your piece reflect jazz music?
How did you use complementary colors?