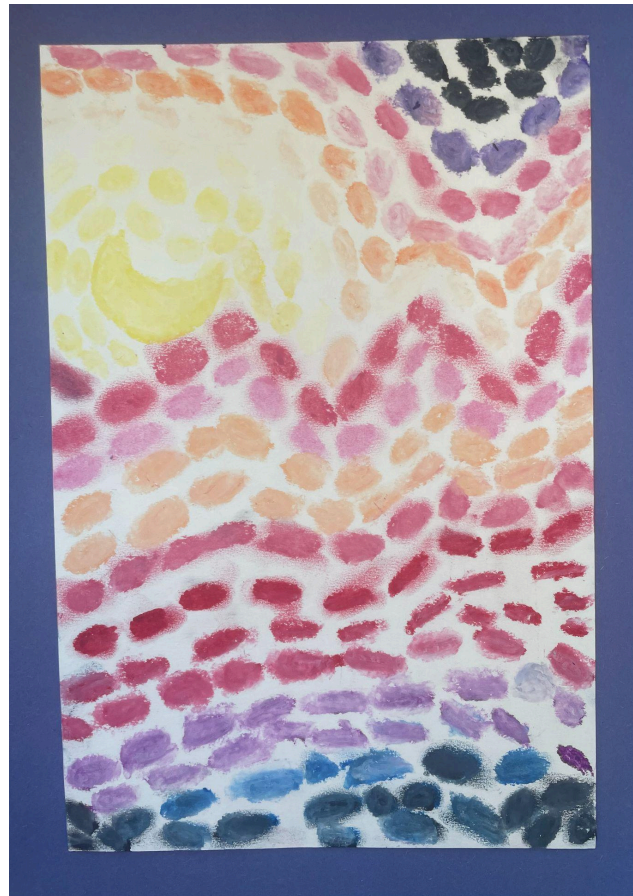


FEBRUARY - Oil Pastel Landscapes

Art Appreciation with Alma Thomas

Essential Question: How can I celebrate Black History Month with visual art?



Supplies Needed	Art Vocabulary:	Learning Targets:	Meets WA Learning Standard:
½ piece of drawing paper	Shape	Students can emulate work from famous artist Alma Thomas. Students understand how to create a landscape.	VA:Cn11.1.1a
Oil pastels	Landscape		
	Horizon Line		
	Staccato line		

Instructions:	
•	To celebrate Black History Month, show students examples of representational artist (and former elementary school teacher) Alma Thomas . Next, talk about what a landscape is.
•	Give each student a piece of paper and pencil, and have them draw a horizon line for mountains and a semi circle behind it for the sun or moon.
•	Next, talk about oil pastels and how Alma Thomas used color in a staccato/dashed line, instead of long strokes. She used small squares and dashes to represent the lines. This is why she was a representational artist. She used color and dashes to represent feelings, emotions and things she saw in the world that are beautiful.
•	Now, to start the project, have students create a staccato line over the top of their pencil line to start making the mountains and sun/moon.
•	Repeat this staccato line over and over, and change colors with each row or every 2-3 rows.
•	Fill the page with squares of color, to make mountains, suns, moons, lakes, trees, flowers, etc.
•	Some students will make this entirely their own, that is just fine.

Pro Tips For Success:

- Make sure to tell students to first outline the horizon line, then draw the moon/sun above the horizon line. Missing this step might make the project confusing.
- Students can use a 'heavy hand' with the oil pastel, pressing hard to get a lot of pigment down on the page.
- Students can rub the shape lightly with your finger to smooth the color into that square-ish shape
- Don't worry about making each shape uniform or perfectly square, this is representational art, so it is just color dashes representing a line.
- Don't be too rigid with students, let them have autonomy. If they want to create art that isn't a landscape, that's okay too. Suggest that they do a simple shape like a circle and repeat the rows of color blocks. Just let kids just ENJOY the process of making art and expose them to Alma Thomas.
- [Northwest African American Museum](#) (NAAM) is another great resource for celebrating other Black and African American artists.