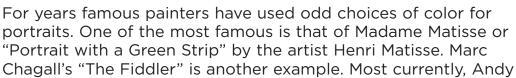# Photo Tinting

Put "extra" into ordinary for extraordinary class photos

Turn a black and white photo into a "riot" of color! Tinting is a simple technique that challenges students of all ages to pay attention to detail, and even young children can do this project with success. Photo tinting is similar to working with a coloring book, as students will discover as they fill black-and-white spaces with color. In this project, class pictures are enlarged, printed in black-and-white and tinted. The use of non-traditional colors is encouraged.

For years famous painters have used odd choices of color for portraits. One of the most famous is that of Madame Matisse or "Portrait with a Green Strip" by the artist Henri Matisse. Marc Chagall's "The Fiddler" is another example. Most currently, Andy Warhol used the actor Marilyn Monroe in a print entitled "Marilyn Diptych" with multiple images of her face in unusual colors. Can students name a contemporary figure with unusual coloring? Consider characters in television and movies, too.

During the 1950s and 60s professional paints were often used for traditional, realistic photo tinting. Students can use these inexpensive materials to create either traditional or fun, riotous photos.

Grade Levels K-6

Note: Instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Start with a photo of each student; this could be a class photo. If students don't have one, take a close-up picture of each child. Include shoulders and head. Take black and white photos if possible. If not, print photos in black and white. Enlarge photos to 8-1/2″ x 11', print on Inkpress Matte Inkjet Paper at school or at a copy center. Use an inexpensive matte finish paper. The dull matte surface is important in order for oil pastels to adhere well. Plain copy paper is OK but will not reproduce details as well as printer paper.

Materials

Crayola® Oil Pastels (20066-1028); share four 28-color sets across class

Gray Paper Stumps (22856-1048); share one 48-piece set across class

Tortillons (22855-1036); share one 36-piece set across class

Inkpress Inkjet Paper, Matte, 8-1/2″ x 11″ (12541-1085); share one 50-sheet package across class

Sandpaper Block (21517-1000); share 13 across class

Optional:

Krylon® Low-Odor Clear Finish, Matte (23710-2001)

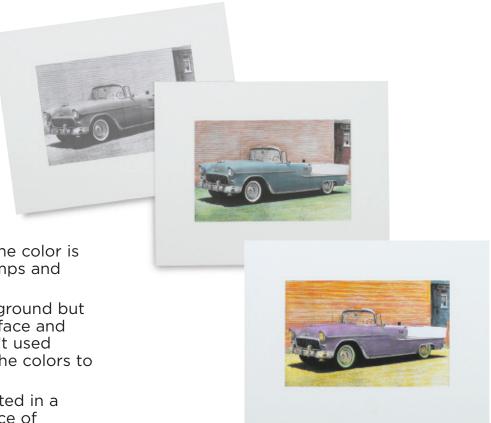Low Cost Redi-Mats, package of 50 for artwork 8″ x 10″ (17205-1005)

Masking Tape, 1/2″ x 60-yd roll (24126-1018)

Blick® Deluxe White Posterboard, white both sides, 22″ x 28″, 14-ply (13104-1002); cut to 11″ x 14″ to use as a backing for Redi-Mats

Process, continued

2. The tinting process requires just a light application of oil pastels so that the original gray tones of the black and white photo always show through. Crayola oil pastels are firm and are a good choice for resisting smudging. Use the oil pastels in light layers. The stumps and tortillons will help gently place the color into corner areas. If the color is put on too thickly, use the stumps and tortillons to remove excess.

3. Gently blend color in the background but keep most of the color on the face and shoulders. Tip: Black pastel isn't used much but white helps lighten the colors to be more of a pastel tint.

4. Photos are traditionally presented in a mat. To create a mat, cut a piece of 22″ x 28″ posterboard into 4 pieces 11″ x 14″ each. Use one 11″ x 14″ piece of posterboard as a backing with each Redi-Mat. Place posterboard end-to-end with the back side of the Redi-Mat. Tape the full length of this joint creating a hinge.

5. Spray the tinted photo to prevent smudging. Place the finished piece on a large piece of newspaper. Shake the can and spray across the artwork. Always start off the artwork and spray across and off the other side. This prevents drips and overspray.

6. When dry, place the artwork under the mat opening and position so that all salvage edges are covered. Lift the mat and tape along the top piece of the artwork to secure it to the backing. Do not tape all edges of the artwork down – this constricts the object and can cause wrinkling and buckling.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4   Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8   Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

K-4   Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

5-8   Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas

Content Standard #5 — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

K-4   Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art

5-8   Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings in specific artworks through cultural and aesthetic inquiry