



Advanced Art

Reflective Painting

You will be creating a painting whose composition emphasizes the reflective surfaces of the subject matter. You will take an original photograph, either in the art room with Mrs. D's supervision, or at home. Glass, plastic and metal are highly reflective surfaces but you may discover more! There needs to be MULTIPLE objects and lighting that creates the reflections similar to those you see in Janet Fish's paintings. You may use a grid to enlarge your photograph, or you may use the overhead projector to trace the composition onto your canvas. What you want to capture are the many, many, many shapes created by each reflection. This is what will make the actual object take form and give depth to the composition.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. **The Photo:** Mrs. D will help you with lighting in the room. You will need to bring the OBJECTS to photograph. The photo will be uploaded to the computer and you can go from there. A few minor edits can take place in Photoshop to emphasize the colors if necessary.
2. **The Practice:** In your Art Journal/Sketchbook, draw just one of the objects in your photograph. Using paint, try to achieve the reflections and colors you will be using on your final project. This is your chance to explore and push your ideas to see how you can MAKE THE MEDIA WORK FOR YOU and not against you. Before you start, read #4. The Painting, and try both transparent and opaque layers in your practice. At the Advanced level, you are now going to be experimenting and trying different techniques to give you the look you want for your project!
3. **The Grid or Overhead Projector:** Begin drawing on the canvas. We will need to determine the correct proportions based on your photograph and how you crop it. Generally, you look for a ½" to 1" grid on the photo, you can go smaller if you need for more details. Then you use MATH to determine the finished size of your project.
 - a. In pencil **draw a 1" grid on top of your photograph**
 - b. If you have a photo size of:
5" x 7"
Enlarging it to twice the size you will
Multiply 5" x 2 = 10"
Multiply 7" x 2" = 14"
Project size is 10" x 14"

If you want to go larger, multiply by a number larger than 2!

Create a grid equal to the number you used to multiply by...if you multiplied by 2 then make a 2" grid on your canvas/project paper...etc. Transfer the photo images to your canvas.

- c. Or, you can use the overhead projector. Ask Mrs. D to get it set up for you. Trace all of the important shapes...reflections so you may paint them. You will add small details/reflections as you build the layers of your paintings.

4. **The Painting:** This project, more than any other you have created, needs to be built in layers of paints. Begin with the largest areas in the background and on your objects, and work your way to the smallest of details. **Notice how each shape relates to the one next to it.** If you get this concept, you will create an amazingly successful painting. Your paints can be transparent and applied in washes, glazing over each layer or you can use opaque layers...you may even combine both applications of paint. Find what will work for you.

- d. Helpful Hints to keep you on track and to make your painting GREAT

Use white and tints of white for the highlights

Reflections are usually monochromatic and relate to the object BUT they also pick up the colors of their surroundings, so this rule does not always apply, it depends on the colors of your subject matter and the lighting!

Keep checking your work and comparing it to the photo

Are your darks really dark and in the right place?

Do the "step back and take a look" test

