

I Saw the Figure Five in Gold

By Charles Demuth (day MOOTH)



25 x 20" (63.5 x 51 cm)

Twentieth Century American- turned to the exploitation of new techniques and new modes of expression.

Abstract- the artist is not painting anything that looks real.

Lesson Plan

Meet the Artist

1. Charles Demuth was considered a Cubist-Realist. Cubist artist arrange geometric shapes on canvas in various colors and textures. Realists create artwork that looks like what we see around us.
2. He liked to take ordinary objects that were unattractive create a work of art that people would be drawn to.
3. He used many symbols in his paintings, i.e. arrangements of letters and shapes, or pears, letters, leaves, and masks.
4. Charles Demuth painted this picture after a friend wrote a poem named "I Saw the Figure Five in Gold". (The same name as his painting.)
5. His art work is a detailed part taken from the side of a bright red fire engine.
6. This is an abstract painting. The artist was not trying to show us things as we see them, but wanted to create a pleasing design.
7. The number five is a symbol. A symbol is an object, shape, or color that has special meaning. (Ex. Red on a streetlight is a symbol that tells you to stop; a heart is a symbol that can mean love.)

Possible questions*

1. How many things are in the painting that you recognize
2. What words can you see? What Letters?
3. What shapes has the artist used? (rectangles, triangles, squares, circles, diamonds)
4. What light colors do you see? (gold, yellow, tan, white)
5. What dark colors do you see? (red, blue, gray, brown, black)

(*You may put the cling-on plastic over the print so you can outline the shapes with a overhead pen as the students point them out.)

The project

Painted numbers

Students will create a painting using cool colors. Students will also gain some knowledge of color theory.

Vocabulary

cool colors- *Are the blues and greens of the color spectrum, associated with water sky and ice, cool temperatures*

recede- *To move away, or to look as if it is moving away from the viewer*

advance- *to bring forward or to look as it is moving closer to the viewer.*

Supplies

- white cardstock
- yellow number five
- glue
- newspaper (enough to cover tables)
- pencils (for name)

- paint trays (paper plates or bowls)
 - paint brushes
 - tempera paint: blue, green, & violet
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Steps

1. Cover the student's tables in newspaper. (Doing so will help with the clean up. The newspaper is stored at the bottom of the Art Masterpiece Supply Closet)
 2. Pass out one plain piece of white card stock to each student. (Have each student put their name on the back of the paper.)
 3. Pass out paint brushes; Give each table the three colors of paint on either a plate or in a cup. Also give an extra plate with a couple of colors that can be mixed together along with its own brushes. Give a couple of paint brushes for each color. (This way they can switch between colors and do not have to rinse their paint brushes.)
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Process

1. Have each student paint the area of paper in between the lines. They can use any of the blue green and violet. Or the colors they made by mixing 2 colors together. Each section needs to have an edge that does not touch a side of the same color.
2. Let the paint dry and start your clean-up by removing the paint and having the students wash their hands if they need to.
3. Each student will now need 1 Yellow five.
4. Go around and apply glue to the back of the # 5's and have the students press it to the center of their art work. (Where all the lines meet.)
5. Let the paint dry.

Example:



Display:

(If the teacher is interested.)

Frame the art work with black construction paper or mount the art work on a black back ground. By doing this, it will help clean up the edges and allow the number in the center of the art work to advance.
