

Art - Caroline Hagan

PreK3 and PreK4

Students have enjoyed continuing their exploration of materials. We began to learn about watercolors noticing the differences in watercolor with other paints we have used. Following this study, we learned about the different qualities created by chalk, oil pastels ,crayons, and markers. We discussed how the thickness of the paper can affect our artwork. After reading a book on color, we discussed how different colors can evoke certain emotions. I love these enthusiastic artists.

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners completed a project based on the book *Elmer*, a multi-colored elephant. Elmer teaches his elephant friends how we can celebrate our differences and similarities at the same time. We then created a jungle for Elmer and discussed how the habitat of a jungle is different from other habitats. Next, we worked on using watercolor to create bands of color for a winter sky. We practiced drawing trees and even added a little glitter to them--their favorite part. We were all pleased at how especially beautiful these artworks turned out.

1st Grade

First Graders learned about weaving methods in collaboration with their study of Native Americans. I love this process and their excitement when they finish their creations. We combined their blanket weavings with drawings of them sleeping and added unique touches, thinking about how their own rooms look. Before break, we began a gingerbread house drawing that the kids absolutely loved. I even showed them ways to draw 2-D houses and the results were remarkable. My favorite part of the project, though, were all the imaginative ideas for their houses--like chocolate-chip-cookie stairs and lollipop trees.

2nd Grade

Second graders began the second-nine weeks exploring portraits. Students used painters' tape to create their portraits and then painted the page. The following week we removed the tape and the students were fascinated by this process. It creates a positive/negative effect and gives freedom to create a portrait that strays from realism. Our next project was inspired by the artist Wayne Thiebaud. Considered a pop artist because of his subject matter, Thiebaud was part of a movement back to realism. We created donuts and learned ways the make them look more dimensional. We were all impressed with the results.

3rd Grade

Third graders finished up our unit on the "Wish Tree" and began to study Louisiana artists: Clementine Hunter and George Rodrigue, among others. This year our unit was especially exciting because we visited the Shaw Center for the Arts that houses works by Rodrigue and Hunter. Students then painted an acrylic on canvas in the style of one of Clementine Hunter's paintings.