

ART APPRECIATION LESSON

Leonardo da Vinci

1. ART PERIODS: Medieval vs. Renaissance

(Showed them examples in an art book of "Medieval" vs. "Renaissance" art.)

Medieval (300 AD - 1400 AD)

- Art was mainly 2D.
- Revolved around religions and the Bible.

Renaissance (1400 AD - 1600 AD)

- Proportion and perspective, giving the paintings more 3D.
- Developed a more humanistic idea, meaning their art were more about nature, people, and surroundings.
- Means "rebirth" -- revival of classical art, architecture, literature, and learning.

2. LEONARDO DA VINCI (Showed them self-portrait of Leonardo).

- Born 1452, over 560 years ago! Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, when Leonardo was 40!
- True "Renaissance Man" -- an artist, engineer, scientist, inventor, architect, musician, sculptor, mathematician.
- Kept notebooks of his drawing and ideas for inventions. Made drawings of plants, buildings, human bone structures. Had ideas for flying machine, tank, helicopters. Wrote backwards (have to use mirror to read).

3. LEONARDO'S ART

He added to the Renaissance Art Movement:

Chiaroscuro (kee-ar-uh-SKYOOR-o) (showed examples; Medieval vs. Renaissance backgrounds)

Means light and dark in Italian. Introduced by Leonardo, it is the contrast between pronounced light and dark areas in paintings. He used it to create depth and space.

Sfumato (sff MAH toh) (showed examples; Medieval outlines vs. Renaissance blurring)

Means hazy or smudged in Italian. Introduced by Leonardo, it is a delicate blurring and blending in paintings instead of drawing lines.

4. MONA LISA (main goal: to excite children about looking AT art).

- a. **LOOKING:** Have them look closely at the pieces WITHOUT talking.

Background: Hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

One of his last paintings (1503-1507).

Took FOUR years to paint.

Some people think it was unfinished.

Some people think he liked it so much that he kept it for himself.

Currently worth \$768M (2012)

- b. Things to notice:

1. No eyebrows.

2. No eyelashes.

3. Notice "chiaroscuro".

4. Clothes. Her husband was silk merchant & wanted anyone who saw the portrait to buy his silk.

ASK THEM:

5. What is she doing?

6. Where is she? Is it day or night? Background is made up; Leonardo used his imagination.

7. Is she happy (83%), disgusted (9%), fearful (6%), angry (2%).

8. Do you like the painting?

9. What don't you like?

- c. Most famous painting in the world.

ASK THEM:

Why? What do you think?

THE ANSWERS:

1. "Mysterious" Smile.

Background: People were usually painted not smiling and they were often VERY serious.

- a. Why do you think she is smiling?

Heard a joke? Had no teeth? Has a secret?

Leonardo often brought in clowns, jugglers, singers for his portraits. That why smiling?

- b. Notice "sfumato" (gives illusion that smiling).

- c. Experiment: cover parts of face (eyes, etc).

One scientist says that her smile is only apparent when viewing other parts of her face.

2. "Follow Me Eyes".

- a. Notice "sfumato" (gives illusion that following).

- b. Experiment: walk in line to see if eyes following you.

5. **PROJECT** **played: "Mona Lisa" by Nat King Cole while they were doing this project**

Draw portraits of each other. Paired up with someone from your table.

1st -- Create title; "Mona" means "My Lady", so "Mona Lisa" is "My Lady Lisa".

The title of your drawing is "My Friend" and then write your friend's name on the line.

2nd -- Next line is the "artists signature", so write your name there.

3rd -- Before you start drawing, take a few minutes and REALLY look at your friend.

Look at details of their face.

Started with drawing head and eyes.

You fill in details: eye color, hair color & length, nose, mouth, smile, teeth missing, freckles, glasses, earrings, shirt color.

If have time, add a background and make it anything you want: any color, trees, mountains, sunset, outer space, etc.