



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

ELEMENTS OF ART: TEXTURE



The elements of art are the artistic considerations one uses to make art. It's not the paint, but the reason paint (or crayons, markers, etc.) is used: to achieve color. A pencil is used to create lines. A line which closes around to its beginning creates a shape. The elements of art are color, line, texture, shape/form, and space/composition. This lesson focuses on texture. Over the next few weeks, we'll explore all the elements.

Left: PERLE FINE, (American, 1908-1988), Plan for the White City, 1950, Oil and sand on canvas, 56 1/4 x 38 1/4 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of Dr. Melvin Fine, 1956.3

The artist Perle Fine (American, 1908-1988) said she created "truly abstract" works, yet her paintings and collages often take on a feeling or atmosphere of her surroundings.

Above, in "Plan for the White City", we see pathways through the bold, primary colored free form shapes, which resemble an aerial view of city streets. The rough and coarse texture of the sand on the canvas adds even more dimension to the painting.

DAY 1

Texture rubbing

A texture rubbing, also known as a frottage, is a way to capture the patterns and designs on the surface of ordinary objects. Texture is an important element of art, which describes how a work might feel like if one could touch it. Of course, when viewing art in a museum or gallery, the viewer isn't able to touch the art, but the artists' use of texture can lead viewers to determine that "the grass looks like it feels rough" and "the red circle looks like it feels smooth"

Go on a "texture hunt"! Look for some of the objects listed above, but make sure you ask an adult for help (don't cut a hole in your window screen)!

You can cut your textured pieces into shapes as seen below, or leave them the way you found them.

Feel the texture of the object. Place it on a table or hard surface, with the textured side facing up. If you are using leaves, the veined side would be facing up. Lay your paper on top of the object. Make sure you can feel the object under the paper. Place your peeled crayon flat to the surface of the paper (not upright), and rub back and forth on



top of your objects, until you see the image appear.

Remember to use one hand to rub, the other to hold the object under the paper steady. If the paper moves your image might be distorted, which might be interesting, too! Change the object, change the color, and fill your page with textures, shapes and colors. You can overlap shapes, as seen below, or even arrange them in a representational way, as a flower for example.

DAY 2

Frottage and Collage

Now make separate rubbings. You might need a few pieces of paper for this step. After rubbing the desired shapes, textures, and colors, cut your individual rubbings out. Arrange them on a separate piece of paper. This will be your background. Selecting a contrasting background color will make the rubbing really stand out! Arrange your "frottage collage" however you want! It can be representational, as the bird to the right, or abstract, you're the artist! Have fun!

TAKE IT FURTHER:



We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios