

Art Education  
Resources  
that **Engage,**  
**Inform &**  
**Inspire**

## Oil Sketching/Blocking In

Subject(s): Visual Art & Social Studies

Medium(s): Oils

Brand(s): Talens Art Creation



**The Oldest Known Oil Paintings** were discovered in Afghanistan in a series of caves in 2001. They were Buddhist murals using paints made with walnut & poppy-seed oil dating from 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Oils became popular** in 15<sup>th</sup> century Europe and played a significant role in the Renaissance. Oils replaced tempera and fresco as the primary medium due to its tonal range, intense color and working drying time. Their popularity was also related to an interest in creating naturalistic detail.

**Talens Art Creations Oil Paints** are vegetable oil based and are available in sets of 8, 12 and 24 colors. Talens Oil Color Paper is the perfect surface for your artwork and has been specifically designed for use with oil-based paints.

Artist worth researching further who utilized the oil sketching technique are Delacroix, Manet, Degas and Constable.

### Project Outline

Introduce fundamental techniques of oil painting

The lesson will cover the oil sketch or blocking in technique.





## Materials

- Talens Art Creation (TAC) Oils
- TAC Oil Color Paper
- HB graphite pencil
- Brushes
- Palette knives
- TAC Tear Off Paper Palette
- Talens odorless mineral spirits
- Paper towels

## Set Up

- Cover table if needed.
- Lay out paint, brushes, palette knives, paper palette, and oil paper for easy access to participants.
- Have plenty paper towels for general clean up throughout.
- Make enough room for individuals to work side by side, sitting or standing.
- Have a trash can available with easy access



“BLOCKING IN” refers to the initial process of blocking the overall colors, shapes, and composition. It is also particularly useful for oil sketching or plein air painting. Block out solid areas avoiding detail using oil colors that have been diluted with odorless mineral spirits for fast drying.

1. Sketch the image lightly using a light graphite pencil such as a HB. Create blocks or shapes for where each color will go.
2. The key to success with this technique is to break the image down into blocks. Also, the quick application and drying of the oil color. This is achieved by diluting the color with odorless mineral spirits to a consistency of where it is loose and watery.

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3. After sketching the image on TAC Oil Color Paper using the HB pencil, paint the colors in blocks onto the image.
4. One method is to create a transparent light value if the painting has a consistent color. In this case it is a Green Anjou pear, so a very pale yellow/green was applied to the whole shape.
5. Block or layer additional tones into the image, moving from light to dark. Always keeping the paint well diluted with odorless mineral spirits.
6. The painting can be left as a sketch. Or could be used as the underpainting for additional layers and techniques.



#### Tips

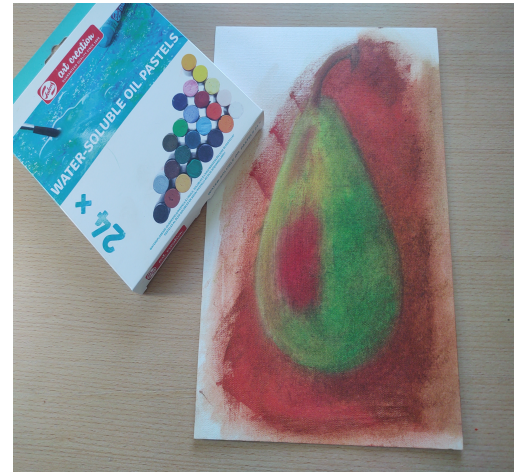
- Talens Oil Color Paper is the perfect surface for your artwork and has been specifically designed for use with oil-based paints
- Arrange the colors on your palette leaving room to mix. A good rule of thumb is to arrange the colors from earth tones, greens, blues, violets, reds, yellows, through to white.
- “fat over lean” Oil paint should be built up in layers going from thin to thicker layers to prevent cracking.
- TAC Oil Pastels work well with wet into wet or over dry oil paint.

#### National Standards for Art Education

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #2. Refine and complete artistic work.

Grade 7 VA:Cr1.1.7 Apply methods to overcome creative blocks.”



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