Art in a Suitcase Lesson

Johannes Vermeer

Grade Level: First Grade

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will become familiar with Vermeer’s background, style and an example of an important work through the use of artist related children’s literature and visual aid.

2. Students will identify and articulate defining style characteristics of Vermeer’s work through observation of his famous work “The Girl with the Pearl Earring” and classroom discussion.

3. Students will demonstrate understanding of Vermeer’s style by creating their own artwork in his style.

Materials:

- Laminated Poster of Vermeer’s “The Girl with the Pearl Earring”
- Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Artists: Vermeer by Mike Venezia.
- Chalk Pastels
- White Art Paper (1 sheet per student)
- Pencil
- Hand wipes

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read through the Mike Venezia book and review lesson plan below.
2. Retrieve appropriate supplies (see above) from supply container

Lesson Instructions:

1. Introduce yourself to the class and explain that today they will be discussing the life and work of Vermeer and making their own art in his style.
2. Read the Mike Venezia book
3. Hand out copies of “The Girl with the Pearl Earring” and ask students to look them carefully. Explain that these are pictures of one of Vermeer’s most famous work.
4. Ask the students to make observations about this work. Ask them what they like about the painting, and about what kinds of colors are used. Ask who they think the girl in the picture is.
5. Summarize their observations making sure to note these elements of style:
   a. Created pictures of people that showed real moments
   b. Paintings had very realistic details and used light

Art Activity:

1. Tell the students that they will have the chance to make their very own Vermeer-inspired picture.
2. Distribute one sheet of white art paper to each student and one set of pastels per table
3. Ask the students to begin by using their pencils the draw their version of “The Girl with the Pearl Earring”. Allow 5-10 minutes for drawing.
4. When they are done, ask them to color their pictures using the chalk pastels. Remind them to use colors similar to those in the painting.