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LESSON: HAVING FUN WITH FACES

LEVEL: Grades 9-12

OBJECTIVE: Students learn the value standards for rendering realistic 3D faces but apply the techniques to an abstract format.

THE ACTIVITY

Students create loose sketches of 3 heads in three different perspectives: front, side and three quarter views. They use their own face looking in a mirror for the capturing of the front view basic shape for their head. They set up the lines that delineate the differences between the basic planes, front, top or bottom and side. They should not try to be too exact, but work freely capturing the feeling of the differences, not the exactitude of the differences. They use a mirror for looking up or down. They must refer to each other, observing their classmates in order to draw the side view. There is no attention given to the features of the face yet, all the attention is on the shape of the head.

Next, students paint in the various planes of the head using value to delineate the differences between the various planes. Again, no attention on the features.

Next, students use line to draw in the features of the face.

VARIATIONS IN IMPLEMENTATION: This lesson is a general outline and may be changed or adapted according to the needs. The following are some examples of various implementation situations.

Lighting may be from a lighting situation arranged in the classroom, or students may use geometric shapes that match the basic shape of the head they drew, to refer to as a guide for capturing value changes. They may refer to other paintings or drawings of famous artists works as well, or value charts, or teacher prepared visuals.

Students may draw in the guidelines lightly with pencil after their painting dries, then draw in the features and paint over those lines. Students will try to be more careful if using pencil, and guidelines, and look more for perfection. Students may paint the features before the painting actually dries, the effect of which will exemplify the abstract expressionism.

COMMENTARY: This lesson is great for beginner students. It will help them to work without inhibitions regarding perfection and perfect outcomes, or predictable outcomes. The format series as an introduction to the face, the planes and value for beginners, without getting too mechanical.

It is also great for the more advanced student who may even be stuck in valuing only realistic works of art. This offers a challenge in expressionism.

This lesson is good for classes that have beginner, intermediate and more advanced students.