



LESSON 10 LEVEL C WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

using letter shapes to create pattern; controlled use of watercolor

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

2.5 cm (one inch) grid paper about 23 x 30.5 cm (9"x12"); crayons; box of watercolors; #12 brush; water container; paper towels.

"TIPS": 2.5 cm (one inch) grid paper can be found in art supply stores or, sometimes, with engineering or drafting suppliers; but you can make your own. On a piece of construction paper, mark off 2.5 cm or one inch intervals across the top and bottom and down each side of the paper. Using a ruler, draw lines connecting the first mark at the top with the first mark at the bottom; second, with the second etc. Do the same connecting the marks on the sides.

NAME PATTERNS A Personalized Pattern a la Paul Klee



Paul Klee Once Emerged from the Gray of Night, (detail) 1918
Kunstmuseum Bern

GETTING STARTED: Letter shapes can be used as design elements. Look closely at the painting by Paul Klee, a famous Swiss artist. Can you see that he has written something in capital letters and then painted the spaces between the letters with watercolors? You will use crayons to print your name in capitals: for example, CARLOSCARLOS, one letter to a square, across the top row. Stretch or squeeze each letter to fit inside each square box. The crayon lines of the finished paper will form waxy barriers when you fill the negative spaces with different colors of paint. You will have to pay attention as you form the pattern, row by row. It will be a challenge!

1. With your grid in a horizontal (lengthwise) position, begin at the top left. Print each letter of your name with firm strokes of various colored crayons.



As you end your name, immediately start it a second time. You probably will not finish spelling it at the end of the row.

2. Do not continue it on the second line of squares. Instead, move to the second square and print your name over and over again. Do you notice the beginning of a diagonal pattern? Move to the third square on the third row and continue down the paper in this way.

3. Now comes the hard part. What letters will you use to fill up the blank squares to the left of your name? Clue: Look at the pattern you have made so far. What letter goes before the *first* letter of your name in your pattern?

And what is the one before that? Finish putting your name on your paper.

4. With a pointed brush, fill in the spaces formed by the crayon boundaries, using the same color in each repeated shape. You will then have a repeated watercolor pattern, as well. Or use whatever colors you choose, randomly, for a different effect.



Davie Age 11

CLEAN UP: Wash and point your brush. Clean your paint box with a moist sponge or paper towel... not under running water! The paint will wash away!

TALK ABOUT IT: What was the hardest part, figuring out what letter to print where or doing the actual art work? From a distance, does your name pattern make an attractive abstract design?

MORE IDEAS: Look closely at the Paul Klee painting, Once Emerged from the Gray of Night. It is a poem, written in German. You may or may not be able to read it, but could you write a poem or short story as Klee did, one word after another, with no punctuation marks?

CONNECTIONS: There are diagonal patterns in nature. Can you find some? It may be easier to find them in manufactured objects: metal, wood fiber and plastic designs. Patterns with a diagonal plan are commonplace. Use your power of observation. Then make a list of what you have found.