

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

painting with tempera from direct observation.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: scratch paper, large paper 45.5 x.60 cm. (18" x 24"); white chalk; tempera paints, black plus 4-5 colors; an egg carton or other containers to hold paints; 1.2 and 2.5 cm. (1/2 and 1 inch) paint brushes; a container to hold water; paint rag or paper towels; sponge; newspapers.

"TIPS": Cover the painting area with newspapers. Put on a paint smock or old clothes. Pour small amounts of tempera paints, including black, into the cups of an egg carton or other container. Leave some cups empty to mix "special" colors as you need them. Have a soft, absorbent paint rag or paper towels handy. Keep a damp sponge near to wipe up accidents. Use a sturdy, low container for washing the brushes between colors.

WORDS TO KNOW:

proportion: how large or small something is compared to another thing

BICYCLE: A Way to Go!



Bicycle Photograph by Kay Alexander

Getting Started: Do you have a bicycle? How well do you know it? Can you see it in your imagination? Make a quick drawing of it *from memory* on scratch paper. Now, place your bicycle where you can see it easily. Check your sketch for accuracy. Did you forget anything? Did you get the proportions right?

 On a large piece of paper. draw your bike with a piece of chalk.
Make it as big as the space allows.
Go over the main lines to make them about 1.2 or even 2.5 cm.
(1/2" or 1") thick.

2. Now you must choose. Do you want to paint your bike with a black line and make the background

colorful? Or do you want a bike of many colors against a black background? Either way, you don't have to be "realistic."

3. Paint the picture of your bike right over the chalk drawing, whether all black or with a variety of colors. If you are using many colors, each time you

change colors, wash your brush. Then, wipe it well with a paint rag or paper towel. (Too wet a brush makes the colors weak and runny) Be sure to let one color dry before adding another color right next to it. That is, unless you want the colors to run together and blend. Remember to mix some new,"in-between" colors in your egg carton palette, for special effects.



4. Now paint the background, with

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a contrast: a colorful bike against a black background or vice versa (the opposite).

CLEAN UP: Wrap the the egg carton in newspaper; then throw it away. Wash the brush with soap and water. With your fingers, bring the bristles to a point. Stand the brush on its handle in a dry container to dry. Always store brushes you used with water this way because you want the brushes to be "as good as new" when you use them again. Put the rest of your materials away.

TALK ABOUT IT: What did you learn about the appearance of your bike by looking at it while you drew its picture? Does the bike you painted contrast with its background? If you are pleased with the results, ask someone to help you make a "window mat" from a large piece of mat board, to frame it. Or trim 2.5 cm. (one inch) from each edge of your picture and paste it on a larger sheet of construction paper.

MORE IDEAS: Choose other favorite things and make a series of sketches and paintings of them.

CONNECTIONS: Find out what bicycles looked like a hundred years ago. How are special bicycles, such as mountain bikes, racing bikes, and dirt bikes different from your bike? What might bikes look like a hundred years in the future? What special features might they need to have?

