

Pixel Drawings

This project is an exercise in color and shade. It provides an opportunity to discuss the theory of Pointillism as well as Greek, Spanish, Italian and Mexican tiles.

Webster's dictionary defines a "pixel" as "a discrete element that together constitutes an image." Students create computer mosaic drawings with magazine illustrations, or photos emphasizing changing shades and tones using the total image or a section of it.

Grade Levels 7-12

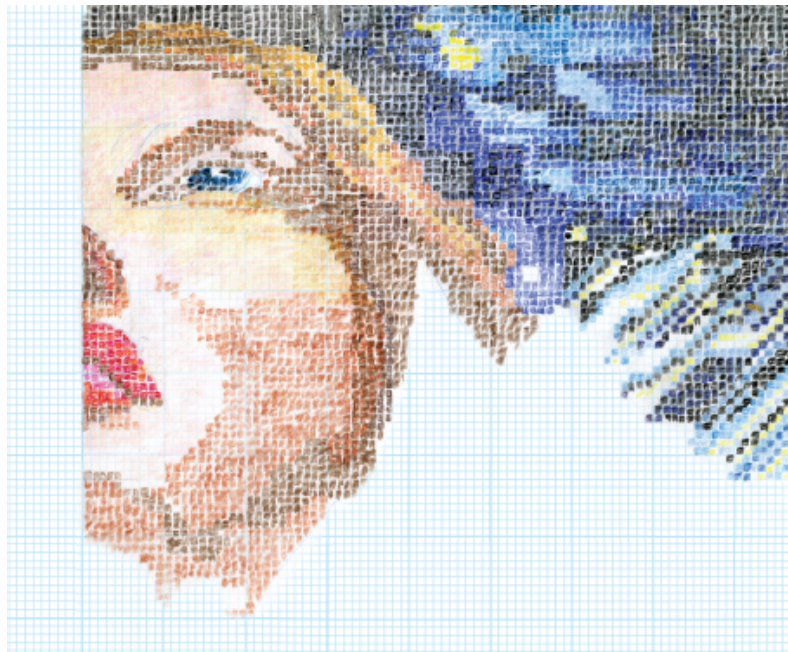
Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. This is an extremely fun project that introduces detail techniques that will be used for years to come. Before beginning this project, make certain that students have an idea of the detail required. Their chosen design involves time and dedication.

Process

1. Cut a photo or magazine illustration to be the approximate proportion of the size of the graph paper. Subsections may be graphed out by folding the photo in sections to work on one area at a time. For reference, tape the design or clip it to a smooth hard piece of matboard on top of the graph paper
2. The Prismacolor Verithins have hard, colorful leads perfect for the detail required. The hard, smooth backing board will help create intense color with repeated pressure. Note: Regular Prismacolor pencils are too soft and thick for this project.
3. Divide the color areas by lightly following the outline with the desired pencil color. Fill in each square then add other colors on top to blend to the correct shade gradually. Do not divide the squares into circles or triangles, keep the graph paper divisions.
4. The final drawing may not be the exact size or content of the original photo or illustration. This is not a concern as the result is stunning.



Materials

Dahle® Professional Pencil Sharpener (21418-1001), need one per classroom

Prismacolor® Verithin Colored Pencils, 24 colors (20509-2409), share one set between three students

Bienfang® Cross-Section Graph Paper 10 sq/inch, (10613-1085), 50-sheet pad of 8-1/2" x 11" pages, need one per student

Hints

- Choose a photo or illustration with "rolling" areas instead of sharp lines. The 10 x 10 graphs create very fine curves from a distance.
- Trim and mount on matboard with original photo along side for display.
- Black and white photos are great value studies.
- Use details from photos.

National Standards:

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.
- **9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

- **5-8** Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas.
- **9-12** Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems.

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

- **5-8** Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts.
- **9-12** Students describe the function and explore the meaning of specific art objects within varied cultures, times and places.