

Synesthesia Name Paintings

Inspired Middle and high school students throughout the Central Okanagan Region were encouraged to express themselves in a variety of mediums and explore what colour means to them for this year's 34th annual Art in Action student exhibition. This art activity takes inspiration from the world of colour by referencing synesthesia, the unique condition in which one's senses (such as hearing) are simultaneously perceived by another sense (such as sight). In some cases, synesthesia will translate words or letters into colours, which is what this activity will focus on. We encourage you to take a look at the synesthesia colour chart provided below and paint your name in a way that it might be seen by someone with synesthesia!

Materials

- Paint (acrylic or watercolour)
- Watercolour paper (or any thick paper will do)
- Wax paper
- Painter's tape
- Paint brush
- Water cup
- Synesthesia colour chart (optional)

Instructions

1. Using painter's tape "write" your name across the sheet of paper, be sure to press down firmly on the edges of the tape.
2. Begin painting over one letter at a time, if you wish to reference the synesthesia chart you can find the colour that would most likely be associated with that letter and colour your name the way it would be seen by someone with synesthesia.
3. Remember to rinse your brush between colours in order to get a nice clean colour every time!
4. If you don't have a certain colour available remember you can always create a certain colour by using the primary colours (red, yellow and blue) and black and white.
5. When you're done painting all of your letters you can decorate the background behind your name.
6. Once the paint is dry, carefully remove the tape to reveal the crisp white letters behind the layer of paint!

To follow along with our instructional video, visit the Kelowna Art Gallery YouTube page!

Reference Images



Feel free to print off this synesthesia colour map for reference!

