Watercolor Splashes

Lesson Plan –Julie Kogon

Middle School (I use for 6th Grade, but can be adapted higher and lower)

Primary Objective: To produce a successful, bright, non-muddy watercolor

Secondary Objective: To explore watercolor, pattern, shapes and warm and cool colors

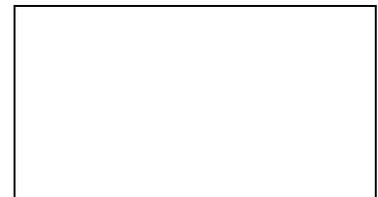**Art History**   Introduce Oaxacan woodcarvings

Explain how they began when Pedro Lineres created paper mache' scultptures of brightly colored fantastical creatures he dreamed of in the 1930, and they caught the eye of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. His designs were adapted into carvings in a soft sturdy local wood, Copal, found in Oaxaca. This craft became a major source of income to the area.

Show examples of Oaxacan woodcarvings and talk about how the artist incorporated pattern into many of the areas of his creatures. Then show examples of watercolor project.

Materials: sheet of 12 x 18" watercolor suitable paper
            #2 pencil   -black sharpie   -watercolors   -#8 watercolor brushes

Procedure:

1   Draw a meandering line with curves and diagonals from the top of the paper to the bottom, filling space on the way down.
2   Draw a 2nd similar line from the top of the other side to the bottom breaking up the remaining blank space on the paper on the way down.
3   Go over these 2 lines with a black sharpie.

4   Using an Oaxacan wood carving as a point of departure, draw fanciful creatures that fit into the curves and horizontals created by the original lines.
5   More creatures can be added to the blank areas of the paper.
6   Once most of the composition is filled with creatures, then the areas inside the creatures greater than a square inch should be filled with pattern.
7   The same for the outside areas, if these are greater than 4 square inches, they can be divided up with a pencil line to break up the area before adding pattern.
8   Begin painting center section between the two black lines with warm water colors only.
9   Then use cool colors on the exterior areas of the lines to complete a color balanced interesting and somewhat complex composition.