



PROJECT:

After-image painting

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Can you make a painting that causes the viewer to see an after-image?

GOALS:

Science: Know the basics of color perception- what are rods and cones?
Understand how fatigue in the visual system causes afterimages

Art: Understand the color wheel and complementary colors

PREPARATION:

This project followed a lesson on the visual system and color perception

The project built on earlier lessons about basic color theory

MATERIALS:

Bristol board, paints, brushes

SUBJECT CONNECTIONS:

Color theory

Color blindness

Optical illusions

LEAD IN:

Artists use contrasting color for many reasons- to draw attention to part of the image, to make something seem like it's moving, even to disturb the viewer. Jasper Johns created a painting of the American flag that you could only see "correctly" as an after-image.

PROCEDURES:

Review the color wheel and complementary colors- 5 minutes

Show images of art using contrasting colors- the last one a reverse-color image (the Mona Lisa works really well)- 5-10 minutes

Have students create an after-image painting- encourage them to use the whole space, and keep the image simple

CLOSURE:

Hang finished work with white space between and have everyone try if they see an after-image