

Second Grade Art Portfolio

Second grade artists have worked really hard this spring, learning all about TEXTURE and COLOR- two Elements of Art. What do Wild Things, Ukrainian eggs, and Indonesian fabric have in common? It sounds like the start of a joke, but it is actually part of a deep and genuine inquiry that our second grade artists have been engaged in.

After reading Patricia Palacco's moving book *Chicken Sunday*, students were curious to learn more about the Ukrainian tradition of egg dying called Psanky. They were excited to learn that Psanky called for materials and techniques similar to the ones they were using in art class to create "simulated textures" in their paintings.



Why a portfolio? A portfolio approach (storing work in the classroom) allows students to revisit their previous work for inspiration or revision. As developing artists, students often learn a lot by looking at a chronological record of their work, comparing pieces of their art side by side and being able to share their work with other students.

Why are drafts or unfinished projects included in the portfolio? Artists rarely ever completely finish with a piece. Sometimes work that isn't finished, provides valuable inspiration for future work.

Artwork Descriptions

Wild Things- As part of our exploration of TEXTURE; an Element of Art, students created their own version of Wild Things (inspired by the creatures in Maurice Sendak's classic book). Students discovered that by making lines with crayons and painting over these lines with watercolor, they were able to make their invented Wild Things come to life with a variety of textures.

Batik Fabrics- With some further investigation we learned that this type of wax resist technique is used all over the world, especially in South Asia, specifically Indonesia, to create beautiful fabrics called batiks. Using a gel glue, instead of hot wax students created their own beautiful batik fabrics.

Choose Your Own Frame- Students explored the effect that various display choices have on a work of art. Using one of their own still life drawings, our artists chose from a variety of materials and colors to make a suitable frame for their work.