

# DAY OF THE DEAD

## Dia De Los Muertos Watercolor Lesson

### LESSON SUMMARY

**Essay Assignment-** students will start off with a 1 - 2 page (3-5 paragraph, in MLA) Research Paper on the Topic of the Day of the Dead. In this paper, they will discuss:

- -Rich Cultural heritage and origin of the Holiday.
- -Iconography, traditions and symbols
- -Include a discussion of one Artifact, Artwork or Artist which they feel depicts or describes the Holiday and why. Include at least one photo depicting the artifact with your essay.
- Introduction should discuss the celebration; body of essay should give an explanation of traditional artifact; closing paragraph should focus on your impression of the symbolism and relevance to the culture and your own understanding- personalize it!
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**Color Wheel Exercise-** as part of the unit, students will watch a power point discussion detailing color theory and color schemes for this painting project. A color wheel template will be created filled in with colored pencils to reinforce structure and relationships between - primary, secondary, complimentary, analogous and tertiary colors color schemes.

### **Dia De Los Muertos Watercolor Painting-**

After completing the essay and color wheel exercises, students will work with their photo image (either of themselves, or a friend or family member) to create a quick planning sketch for their own Dia De Los Muertos portrait painting. Sketch design should show a balanced composition using a symmetrical design to define the face paint design which should display personal symbolism, or traditional sugar skull patterns. After the planning sketch, students may choose to free-hand or grid the photo onto an 11x15 sheet of watercolor paper. They will then use watercolor techniques: washes, wet on wet, wet on dry, dry brush, and color lifting, using a full range of contrasting colors to accurately depict the portrait in complimentary color schemes.

**Critique:** There will be a class critique beginning on **November 14** where students will present essays and paintings to the class. **Project is worth a total of 300 points for all components.**

**Materials-** Watercolor paper 11x15 per student, watercolors, pencil, eraser, ruler, paper towels, brushes (variety of large & small), fine point permanent pen, Computer (for research)

Images: <http://youtu.be/xD8HheM5dlo> Silvia Ji's collection

<http://dailytrojan.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/life-dia-de-los-muertos.jpg>