

Best of Summer Arts I: “The Mark” (Watercolor)

Lesson Plan Objective:

In this lesson plan we will be collaborating with artist and Blaffer Art Museum’s docent Rona Lesser, through her demonstration lesson based on the 2019’s exhibition, *Rebecca Morris: The Ache of Bright*. We will be taking inspiration from her paintings such as *Untitled (#11-18)*, and recreating on a smaller scale a sense of her painting style using water color and texturing techniques.

Approximate Time:

1 Hour

Skill Level:

Difficult

Parental Supervision:

Required



Image: Rebecca Morris, *Untitled (#11-18)*, 2018, oil on canvas, 104 x 85 inches.

Art Materials:

- Watercolors (set of Prang with 8 ovals suggested)
- Stiff thicker paper or watercolor student grade paper
- Brush (can be round, small foam brush, or flat brush)
- Masking tape or painter’s blue tape
- Straight edge or ruler
- Pieces of wax (such as broken candles), or white crayon
- Colored crayons or oil pastels
- **Texturizing Materials:** can include, plastic wrap, sponge piece, paper towels, or old towel, salt, rubbing alcohol, old toothbrush and eye dropper
- Water container: flat containers suggested

Instructions & Extension

1. Observe how Morris divides the spaces in her paintings and uses a border to create a quilt-like composition. Decide if your artwork will have a border. Use the masking or painter’s tape to block out the border.
2. Consider how Morris’s paintings often employ a grid design. Begin dividing the space horizontally with more tape or use the wax or white crayon. Cut the tape if you prefer thinner lines. *(Instruction continues on following page.)*

3. Take the piece of wax or white crayon and draw some shapes or designs in different parts of the paper. Decide what colors you want to start with. Begin painting an area with one color, keeping the paint very wet. You can add another color next to it and let the paint run together to create a new color.
4. Into a wet area, drop some salt and let it stay until dry.
5. Paint another area or two and into the wet paint, drop alcohol from an eye dropper. Notice the effects created.
6. Continue down the page, painting with any colors, leaving it wet.
7. Begin texturizing your painting. In another wet area, take a small piece of plastic wrap and set it down on top of the paint. Push it around to make lines and leave until dry.
8. In some other dry paint areas, take the old toothbrush, wet it, and put it into a contrasting color.
9. Take a piece of household sponge, wet it lightly and put some paint onto it. Stamp with the sponge over another dry paint area.
10. The cut plastic card can be used to draw lines to ways. From a puddle of wet color you can use a very dry edge to pull out lines. The other method is to dip the edge into the wet color and then draw with the edge to get thin lines.
11. Look at your design so far. Decide if you want to add more textures anywhere and go back over those areas. Put down more wet paint, and then use more salt, plastic wrap, or alcohol.
12. Remove the tape border. Decide if it will be a solid color or have more textures. Paint the border. Your Rebecca Morris inspired painting is now complete!
13. **Extension:** Now that you have completed the painting, you can play with more designs or use the same techniques to create textures in more realistic subjects. The object is to have fun and be creative!



Image: *Sample*, Rona Lesser



Image: Rebecca Morris, *Untitled (#07-18)*, 2018, oil and spray paint on linen, 51 x 53 inches.