

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of the Rococo art movement, particularly focusing on themes of love and mythology as depicted in the works of artists like Aeneas and Poussin. The student will also learn to create their own watercolor artwork inspired by these themes and practice ekphrasis through descriptive writing.

Materials and Prep

- Watercolor paints
- Watercolor paper
- Brushes (various sizes)
- Pencil and eraser
- Notebook for writing
- Reference images of Rococo artworks featuring Cupid and cherubs
- Printed excerpts from Vergil's works, especially related to Aeneas

Before the lesson, review the characteristics of Rococo art and gather some reference images and texts. Ensure that the student understands the basic themes of love and mythology in art.

Activities

• Art Exploration:

Begin with a discussion about the Rococo period, focusing on its themes of love and beauty. Show the student various artworks by Poussin and others that feature Cupid and cherubs. Encourage them to observe the colors, emotions, and compositions.

• Watercolor Painting:

Using the inspiration from the discussed artworks, the student will create their own watercolor painting that incorporates elements of Cupid, cherubs, or other mythological themes. Encourage creativity and expression in their artwork.

• Ekphrasis Writing:

After completing the painting, the student will write a descriptive piece (ekphrasis) about their artwork. They should focus on conveying the emotions and stories behind their painting, using vivid language and imagery.

Talking Points

- "The Rococo movement is characterized by its ornate detail and playful themes, often celebrating love and nature."
- "Poussin's works often depict mythological subjects, and Cupid is a recurring figure representing love."
- "In Vergil's writings, Aeneas is often portrayed as a hero guided by fate, embodying themes of duty and love."
- "Ekphrasis is a powerful way to engage with art; it allows us to think deeply about what we see and express it through words."
- "Watercolor painting can capture the lightness and beauty of Rococo art, so let's experiment with colors and techniques!"