

# Gouache Painting Project



## Project Objective and Expectations:

Students will create a gouache painting that will disguise or cover-up a portion of a selected resource image that is also the inspiration of the painting.

- An artistic focus is placed on mixing colors that match the resource image the student selects.
- An artistic focus is placed on drawing an outline that aligns with the resource image that the student selects.
- An artistic focus is placed on layering colors of paint.

## Project Instructions:

1. Select a resource image; using a calendar image is great because it is large enough for the 8" x 8" canvas.
2. Determine which portion of the resource image you want to cover with your 8" x 8" canvas. With a pencil lightly mark where the edge of the canvas on the resource image.
3. Use the resource image as a guide to lightly sketch the area you wish the canvas to cover - see example to the right.
4. With the outline lightly sketched, begin applying gouache to the background of your canvas.
5. In addition to applying color to the background, begin adding base-layers of gouache to large areas of the canvas.
6. Slowly add layers of gouache to the canvas, attempting to match the colors of the resource image selected.
7. Continue painting with gouache until the canvas is full and the finished work looks similar to the referenced image.

## Artistic Tips:

- Painting is about layering! You should not expect to only lay down one layer of color.
- Try to use synthetic brushes when working with gouache paint.
- When first applying paint, make sure to begin with the background coloring or base-layer of color to the larger spaces in the painting..

## Information on Gouache:

- Gouache is great flexibility.
- Gouache is water-based like acrylic paint, but it can also be rewetted like watercolor, while acrylic paint cannot.
- Gouache has a drier, tackier feel,
- Gouache dries soft and has a more matte appearance.
- Gouache dries quickly on the paint palette; at times it is ok to add water to reactivate this paint for use, but it can affect the paints consistency.
- When layering gouache, be sure the base-layer is dried before beginning a new layer.

## Project Materials:

- Canvas Board 8" x 8"
- Gouache Paint
- Paint Palette
- Painting Easel

