

Lesson Title: **Studio Experience: Plaster and Paint**

Grade Level: 9-12

Estimated Time: 3-6 Art Class Sessions

## STUDIO EXPERIENCE: PLASTER AND PAINT

STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS:  
Fine Arts: 1A, B, C, D, 2A, B, 3A B, 4A, B

### MATERIALS/ RESOURCES

- Water
- Measuring Cup
- Plastic Mixing Bowl
- Rubber Spatula
- Watercolor/ Tempura Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Foam Plates
- Plastic Straws - 1" pieces
- Ribbon, String or Twine

### VOCABULARY

Buon Fresco  
Fresco Seco  
Plaster of Paris  
Cartoon  
Texture

### OBJECTIVE

Using the *Mundos de Mestizaje* mural as a point of reference, students will:

- Compare and contrast plaster mediums and techniques.
- Understand buon fresco making techniques.
- Analyze differences between copying/replicating art and creating art in a freestyle technique.

### PROCEDURE

#### Observation and Reflection

1. Students view and visually analyze sections of the *Mundos de Mestizaje* online interactive.
2. After (re)viewing several sections of the mural, students select a section for focused study.
3. Students take notes about the defining features of the section.
4. Students create grid sections for their selected portion.
5. Using grid paper, students create scaled images of the mural. Use color pencils to add details.
6. Students take reflective notes in their journals about the process of creating images from the mural.

#### Drawing Original Images

1. Students review their sketches and observations with the class or in groups.
2. Discuss themes, symbolic references, connections between the images. Students generate a list of images that could be included in their mural.
3. Using the list generated or another original idea, students sketch "mural worthy" images in their journals. Students are encouraged to sketch a "Zoom-in" in of the selected image.
4. Students read the following article:

*Frederico Vigil and the Art of Buon Fresco*. Students observe the steps as Frederico produces the mural

*Mundos de Mestizaje* <http://www.collectorsguide.com/fa/fa051.shtml>

### Plaster and Painting

1. Students read the following directions prepared and posted by the teacher for making Plaster of Paris. (If class periods are short, pour the plaster into the foam plates one period prior to class).
2. Pour plaster mixture into the foam plates.
3. Settle straws into the plaster at the top of the plate. Do not perforate the foam plate. This will leave a space in the plaster for hanging the fresco. Let the plaster set until firm but not dry.
4. While the plaster is hardening/setting, watch the 13-minute video *Frederico's Miracle Wall* at <http://vimeo.com/16025064>
5. Clarify to the students the difference between buon fresco and Plaster of Paris. Ask students why they think they are not using the buon fresco techniques in the classroom.
6. Using watercolor or tempera paints, students create their drawings on the wet Plaster of Paris.
7. Students are reminded to take Frederico's words to heart while they paint.
8. Let the mini-murals dry. Remove straw and lace string or ribbon in the straw hole to hang.

### Art Circle Discussion

1. Students bring their sketches and original mini-murals to the circle for discussion.
2. Each student shares a comment about the challenges of replicating sketches to a painted surface.
3. Students share three words about the message expressed in their own mural.
4. Teacher facilitates an open discussion with probing questions about student responses.

## ASSESSMENT

Online Supplemental Resources: Art Studio Feedback Form, Discussion Scoring Guide

## EXTENSIONS

Students can study the method of fresco secco. Students can then compare and contrast the technical merits/differences of the two methods, and the outcomes of each methods. For more information on creating fresco secco in a classroom setting, see the link in the Additional Resources section of this lesson.

## COMMON CORE

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.7  
 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1  
 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.4  
 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.5  
 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.6

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Fresco Making <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/painting/lesson-plan/65343.html>

Frederico's Miracle Wall <http://vimeo.com/16025064>

Frederico Vigil and the Art of Buon Fresco <http://www.collectorsguide.com/fa/fa051.shtml>

## Art Studio Feedback Form

<b>QUALITY</b>	Good- 2pts	Average- 1pt	Needs Work- 0 pts
Student addresses the goals/expectations for the assignment			
Student art work reflects attention to neatness and care			
Student art work demonstrates experimentation with art form being studied			
Student can explain significance of her/his own work (verbally and/or in writing)			
Student work demonstrates creativity			
Student work exhibits attention to artistic elements appropriate for art form			
Comments and Questions for Student	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end;"> <b>Total Points:</b> _____                 </div>		

## Discussion Scoring Guide

<b>QUALITY</b>	<b>Good</b> Consistent 2 pts	<b>Average</b> Sometimes Consistent 1 pt	<b>Needs Work</b> Rarely Consistent 0 pts
Student expresses knowledge about art and art work			
Student maintains interest throughout discussion			
Student asks engaging questions			
Student responds to the comments of the teacher and other students			
Student articulates items of significance in her/his own work			
Student listens to responses and comments of others with respect			
Student comments reflect originality, critical thought and/or innovation			
Comments and Questions for Student	<b>Total Points:</b> _____		