



MORSE
MUSEUM

MASKING TAPE MASTERPIECES



GRADES/LEVEL:

Kindergarten–12th grade

TIME REQUIRED:

40–45 minutes

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- learn about the element of value.
- practice using value to create a work of art.
- understand how using layers of tape mirrors the technique of plating used in leaded-glass windows.

MATERIALS:

- Masking tape (1–2 rolls)
- Smooth, flat, transparent surface (transparency sheet, clear box frame, window, etc.)
- Light source (sunlight, lamp, nightlight, push light, etc.)

VOCABULARY:

Contrast: the arrangement of opposite elements (light and dark colors; rough and smooth textures; large and small shapes, etc.) in a work of art in order to create visual interest.

Design: the organization or composition of a work; the skilled arrangement of individual parts.

Drapery glass: hot glass that has been manipulated with tools to mimic the folds of textiles and fabrics.

Gradient: a visual way of representing a color's transition from light to dark.

Plating: the layering of one piece of glass over another. Layering glass allows an artist to manipulate color, texture, and perspective.

Texture: how the surface of something feels or looks.

Unity: the feeling of harmony between all parts of a work of art; a sense of completeness.

Value: the dark and light sections of works of art.

Value scale: a way of organizing a color's values from light to dark.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Value, one of the seven fundamental elements of art, refers to how light or dark a color is. It is best visualized as a scale or gradient that goes from a color's lightest shade to its darkest shade. Value also creates contrast in an image, emphasizing and defining individual areas, and invoking a sense of dimension.

Using value is central to the art of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933). Plating, the practice of using more than one layer of glass to create a desired color or effect, was a technique frequently used by Tiffany and his artisans to create colors and effects in leaded-glass windows. With plating, glass layers are not fused together, but are stacked one on top of another, and joined by soldering foil or lead came. Plating is also used to combine the colors and textures of two or more types of glass, to create shading effects, and to make lines or other features less distinct.

INSTRUCTIONS:

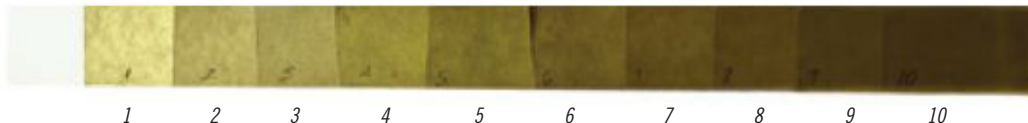
- 1) Watch the video “Value, Plating, and Louis Comfort Tiffany” on the Morse Museum’s website.

- <http://www.morsemuseum.org/create-explore/value-plating-and-louis-comfort-tiffany>

Then, give each student a transparent surface, a light source, and at least one roll of masking tape. Rolls of masking tape may be shared among students if needed.

- 2) As a class, create a value scale with the masking tape. Use a blank area of the transparent surface or find a separate transparent surface. Leave one end of the scale open (without tape), and then layer pieces of tape on top of each other. Make each piece shorter than the previous piece until the value of the tape is opaque (see image below). Number each section with the number of layers of tape needed to create that value.

Value scale created using layers of masking tape.



- 3) Have students begin building their image. A preliminary sketch on scrap paper may be made first, or students may experiment with the tape as they go. Create textures by folding, cutting, twisting or wrinkling tape (like drapery glass). Tear tape for softer edges. Use different widths of tape for different elements of the design.

ASSESSMENT:

Students should:

- be able to define the artistic element of value.
- be able to describe a value scale and explain the purpose of creating one.
- be able to use the knowledge gained in this project to create value in future works of art.