

Sonic Abstraction:

Textures, Additives, Masks & More

1. **Technique Experiments:** Make small (approx. 4 "x 3") paintings using the various masking and texture techniques from below.

Some Masking Techniques: Tape (low-tack artist's or painter's tape or drafting tape), masking fluid, wax candle, Prismacolor pencil, draw on wax paper with the wax side down using a sharp pencil, experiment with other ideas.

Some Texture Techniques: Toothbrush splatter, splatter with paint brush into wet wash, drop ox gall into a wet wash, mix gum Arabic into a wash then paint over the wash, use a mouth sprayer, lift color off by press paper into a wet wash, use a bamboo pen, finger prints by dabbing your fingers and hand into the wet wash, use the edge of a card, drop in salt crystals, paint onto textured fabric and press the fabric onto paper, drip crumbled paper into a palette puddle of paint then press onto paper.

2. Using the techniques: **Sonic Abstraction.**

In this part of the project the objective is to create one or more 22" x 15" (half sheet of watercolor paper) abstract painting(s) based on a piece of music thus translating the sonic into the visual. Use the masking and texture techniques along with other watercolor techniques as part of the finished work. Look to the work of Wassily Kandinsky for visual inspiration.

- a. Choose your music and make b/w pencil studies, (4" x 3" or larger). The studies will translate music sounds and rhythms into shapes and visual rhythms. Use shapes, lines textures to express the music visually. Ask yourself what is the shape of drum roll or other sound? Consider orchestrating the visual elements like musicians playing together.
- b. Do small color studies
- c. Do the large painting(s)

Optional variation on the part two: Use the same size requirements as part two. Do a representational portrait of a musician which includes the abstract visual music design as part of the piece. The abstract design could be part of the background or persons clothes.

At the end of the project turn the large painting(s), technique studies, black and white abstract compositional designs, small color studies, and associated works in a portfolio for grading.