LESSON 9 LEVEL B TEMPERA PAINTING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

painting tempera colors within a framework of lines

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

scratch paper and pencil for sketching; 30.5 x 45.7 cm (12"x 18") or larger white paper; .6 and 10.6 cm (1/4" and 1/2") tempera (stiff bristles) brushes; 8-10 tempera colors in an egg-carton palette; paint rag; newspapers to cover the work area.

"TIPS": Use no water during this lesson, as colors will be enriched by blending them as they are applied to the paper. Simply wipe off the excess of one color on the paint rag before dipping the brush into another one. The drawing for the painting will be done with black paint in the manner of the French artist, Georges Rouault, or like the lead structure of a stained glass window. All areas of the completed painting should be covered with paint... no white areas showing.

A Structure Enclosing Jewel-like Colors



Georges Rouault <u>The Old King</u> 1916-1936 Carnegie Museum of Art Pittsburgh

GETTING STARTED: Have you ever seen a stained glass window and wondered at the brilliance of its jewel-like colors? The artist Georges Rouault worked for a glass maker when he was young. When he later became a painter, his pictures reminded people of stained glass windows. You will paint in that way. First, you will draw with black paint to make the lines. Then you will fill the spaces with rich colors. To keep your colors intense, you will not rinse

your brush in water. Instead, you will simply wipe it on your paint rag. Tiny flecks of your first color will show as you paint your next color, enriching it, like the sparkles of jewels. You should probably make some sketches first, to

get your ideas down on paper.

- 1. Choose your best sketch and draw it onto the large paper with pencil. Make your lines simple, because even the smallest line will be 5.mm. (1/4") thick. Remember to divide up large areas as they would look in a stained glass window.
- 2. With either of your brushes, paint over your pencil lines with black paint.

Let the paint dry thoroughly before the next step. While you wait, plan what colors you will use where.

- 3. Begin to fill in the "glass" areas of your picture with rich colors of tempera. As you change colors, <u>do not wash</u> the brush. Instead, wipe off most of the old color on your paint rag. Then dip into the new color. The little bit of the old color will make the new one more interesting, so let it show, as Rouault did.
- 4. Finish painting the various colors into their spaces. Try not to smooth out the colors. Let your painting dry.
- 5. Examine your art work from a distance. You may wish to strengthen some of the black lines by repainting areas that are too large into smaller ones.



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CLEAN UP: Wrap your palette in the newspapers and discard them. Wash and rinse your brushes thoroughly. Stand them on their handles to dry.

TALK ABOUT IT: Does the subject of your painting stand out against its background of other colors? If so, you have probably used the art principle of <u>contrast</u>. That is a good technique to remember. Are your colors clear and blended only slightly so sparks of other colors make them more interesting than your original palette?

CONNECTIONS: 1. Find out how stained glass is made. 2. Look at real stained glass and photos of ancient stained-glass windows. 3. Learn more about Georges Rouault and study some of his oil paintings.