CHIAROSCURO WINDMILLS

MATERIALS

- White and black pastels (cabinet)
- Black/blue paper or cardstock
- White chalk
- Drawing pencils and erasers
- Paper windmill (cabinet) and black box- put on high podium for best viewing
- Flashlight
PREP
Cover tables with white paper and lay out white chalk, white and black pastels, pencils, erasers and paper per station.

(while still seated in front)
We are going to be learning more about a technique Rembrandt made famous called CHIAROSCURO. You are going to become a master of light and shadow by creating art depicting something Rembrandt could see from his house on the Breestraat, a WINDMILL. Before we begin, let’s learn a little more about windmills. (See HISTORY OF WINDMILLS).

Now let’s look at the lighting Rembrandt made famous in his paintings. In fact, photographers use a lighting technique today called REMBRANDT LIGHTING in studio portrait photography. The light source is directed just under one eye, so half of the face is in light. (show example).

In order to create the strong light-dark we will need to turn off the lights and use our flashlight to illuminate one side of this windmill. (flashlight can be jammed into hole from the inside of the box and tilted to hit on side of windmill- someone may want to hold it tilted). The lighting transforms the windmill into something exciting. (Can show dramatic effects on fake skull, as well.)

(now go to your seats to create the dramatic version of the windmill)

CHIAROSCURO WINDMILLS
The term CHIAROSCURO refers to a strong juxtaposition of light and shade which results in a stunning visual effect on a work of art. The technique was initially pioneered by Leonardo da Vinci and perfected by Rembrandt. By this technique for contrasting and manipulating light and shadow, Rembrandt was able to achieve three specific effects which have become trademarks of his style:

DRAMATIC INTENSITY
VISUAL HARMONY
PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH
We need to make an undersketch of the windmills in pencil. Please start by putting your name and homeroom class section on the back of your papers.

At your table are samples of the basic shapes involved in a simplified version of the windmills. Try to make your windmill take up most of the paper, taking into consideration the sails will go on top.

1. You see a 3D cone on the top and a graduated cylinder under that. Draw that first.
2. Draw a large “X” in the center of the cone in the direction that you want your sails- these are in the JOY signal. Then draw rectangles on the top of each of the X.
3. If you want, add the railing around the center of the windmill like a piece of pizza and then erase the point part. Add a window and a door.

Now we are ready for the lighting. (show lighting again on windmill).

Begin coloring the light with the WHITE PASTEL and make your strokes side to side on the cylinder to make it look dimensional. You can color the sails white and any part that has a lot of light on it. Next use the BLACK PASTEL to color the side in the dark.

Next, use the BLACK PASTEL to create details like the lines on the sails as well as the railing and outline the windmill if you want. You can make a background scene. Lastly, use the WHITE CHALK to add more details of light. Enjoy your dramatic Rembrandt version of his father’s windmill!
Rembrandt Lighting