

## 4. A Mural of Portraits

[For ages 13+]

[Definition of 'Mural': A large-scale artwork usually created on a wall]

### Goals

1. To create a collaborative mural that celebrates diversity and one's identity
2. To become familiar with the medium of paint and mixing colors
3. To draw a portrait

### Materials

Canvas (or a wall that is smooth and has been primed) pencil, paper, acrylic paint, paint brushes, containers with lids, palettes, projector (optional)

### Preparation

Search for References of Murals on the Internet or in Books

### Activities

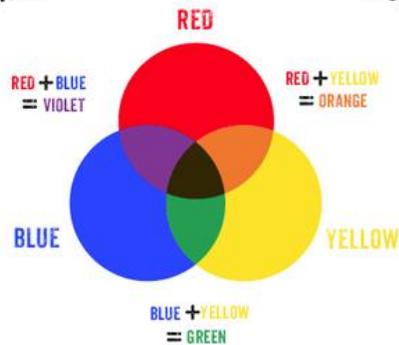
#### Part 1: Draw Your Partner's Portrait

- Parts create a Whole! Observe the basic shapes of each other's faces and their relation to each other  
[demonstrate:
  - An outline of the face
  - Eyes, nose, mouth, ears, hair
  - Identifying Marks]
- Note: Identify the physical detail or expression that is distinct to this person and include it in the portrait

#### Part 2: Learning to Use Paint and Mixing Colors—Create a Color Chart

- Fill in Red | Yellow | Blue – primary colors (Identify all the different languages you can say these words)
- What happens when you mix the primary colors?
  - Red and Yellow
  - Yellow and Blue
  - Blue and Red
  - All three

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MIX COLORS?



### Part 3: Compose the Portraits Into a Single Artwork

- Photograph every portrait, then use photoshop to compose each portrait into a single digital piece
- Alternative: Cut each portrait and arrange it on a separate piece of paper. When you are happy with the overall composition, paste the cut outs. You can take a picture and convert it into a digital piece.

### Part 4: Enlarge the Composition

- Use a projector: project the image on to the surface where you will be working and draw the outline of each portrait and the basic facial details with a pencil.
- Alternative 1: If you do not have a projector, you can create a grid on the paper and recreate the piece on to the larger surface.
- Alternative 2: Free re-draw the portraits using the overall composition as a reference.

### Part 5: Paint the Details

- Use black paint to outline all the pencil lines
- Mix varied skin color tones emphasizing the science of melanin and the beauty of diverse colors. Address racist comments.
- Paint any of the exposed skin on the portraits.
- Add a few drops of black to the mixed skin colors and encourage students to notice shadows and carefully paint them in.
- Mix a variety of colors for clothes and accessories. Paint the Clothes and Accessories
- Paint the landscape
- Add objects that represent your identity. Be creative and imaginative! This is art, your objects are allowed to fly or appear anywhere!
- Take the time to refine your edges and artwork as necessary.

**Part 6: Display**

- If you worked on a canvas, stretch it onto a frame and place it in the desired location.
- If you worked on a wall, you can choose to add a layer of finishing or varnish to protect the painting from the elements.

**Reflect**

What did you choose to include in your overall composition? How do you feel it represents your community and each individual? Do you see yourself in the mural?

What are your thoughts about the difference between art and reality?

