

Into the deep with yellena james....

Hello third graders!

I hope you enjoyed a break and are ready for art exploration and practice!
I've loved the work of Yellena James for many years....her works are a treat in terms of shape, pattern, and subtle movement. Her use of a variety of elements of art are perfect for our elementary art curriculum. Please search her work on etsy and study Moonlight and many other works:

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/661721525/resin-covered-print-on-round-panel>

Recently, Yellena has been working on dark backgrounds and creating shapes and patterns with colors that are almost luminescent. The glow and mystery of these darker compositions appear to be fantastical studies of underwater sea life.





With my 3rd graders, I'm using her work to continue their line unit. We are looking at a number of her paintings and using them as a springboard to experiment with contour line, pattern, and space. When students plan their compositions, we talk about how they should be drawing from 3 things- Yellena's work, their personal experiences with nature, and their imagination. After creating two sketches, choose which one they would like to move forward with and then get rolling on the dark paper final drawing.

When starting on the dark paper, I encourage them to draw out the shapes softly with colored pencil - this will allow them to erase and edit if necessary. Once things are laid in, they'll add patterns and other details with gel pen, chalk, or colored pencils. Protect your work from smearing by putting a tissue under the side of your pinky as you work, then lift and move it. You can start playing with hand pressure to make some of the elements brighter to pop and to make other parts submerge a bit into the background darkness. I encourage you to elaborate on their sketches- adding more pattern, detail, and color.



There are a few constraints with this drawing activity- a minimum of 3 shapes, 3 patterns, and a use of overlapping. I also encourage you to play with line thickness as well as hand pressure, so that focal points stand out a bit more. When finished, take a pic and have mom or dad email! We can share on the blog!!







