**STUDIO PAINTING  
Ms. Barhorst**

**12 Class Meetings**

**LAP 1 – On Your Mark, Get Set, GO!**

**Exploring the Characteristics of Watercolor**

**Rationale:** Art is a visual language of our ideas, feelings, and experiences. It is a pleasurable activity which allows us to release stress and express joy, concern, anger, and a number of other emotions. This LAP is designed for students to learn to use watercolor media as a way to creatively express themselves. In order to paint with watercolor, it is important to know how to work with the transparency and fluidity of this media. These characteristics make watercolor unlike any other paint. In this LAP, you will be able to experiment with watercolor in five warm-up projects that will build up your skills leading to a large watercolor painting of flowers inspired by Lily Pulitzer.

Projects will be given related to the following:

1. Characteristics of Watercolor Paint
2. It is TRANSPARENT.
3. It remains FLUID when wet.
4. Watercolor Magic

Exploring with crayon, salt, plastic wrap, bubble wrap, rubbing alcohol, and tissue.

**Essential Questions:** How can art be therapeutic? What is the value of engaging with our peers while in the process of making art?

**Objectives of LAP:**

1. **Students will create work that indicates that they understand the characteristics and techniques of watercolor painting.**
2. **Students will create work that is not stereotypical, but is unique and original.**
3. **Students will achieve satisfaction in their work as an expression of their ideas, feelings, and experiences.**

**Materials Needed for LAP:** All materials for this LAP will be supplied.

**Class Meetings:**

**Project 1: Transparency - Creating Other Colors by Layering Colors**

**Directions**: Because watercolor paint is transparent, you will find that by layering one color over another, you can make a third color. Example: Layering yellow over blue will give you green.

On one of the smaller pieces of watercolor paper, paint one color at random. Leave lots of white paper. When dry, paint another color over the first color and some of the white. Add a third color to create still another color by overlapping some of the previous colors.

**Project 2:** **Transparency - Creating Darker Values by Layering the Same Color**

**Directions**: Because watercolor paint is transparent, you will also find that layering a color over the same color will make it a darker value. Example: Layering red over red will make a darker red.

On a second smaller piece of watercolor paper, trace the value bar template. Divide the rectangle you have just drawn into five equal boxes (1 inch wide). Make a wash of one color over all five boxes. Let it dry. Now repeat the same color over the first four boxes. Let it dry. Repeat over the first three boxes … repeat over the first two boxes … then over the first box. The first box should be the darkest, the last the lightest.

**Project 3: Transparency - The Review Project**

**Directions**: Take one of your shoes off and place it on the table in front of you. Without looking at your paper, use your eyes to guide a drawing of the shoe in front of you. Do not lift off your pencil from the paper. Do not erase anything. Do not look down at your drawing while you are actually drawing.

Once you have your drawing in place on your paper, you are ready to begin painting. Use only three colors. Create other colors by layering; create darker values by layering.

**Project 4: Fluidity - Advanced “Doodle” Painting**

**Directions:** Using a larger piece of watercolor paper, paint one color on your paper. While it is still wet, paint another color next to it, overlapping colors in some places. Do this several times. While some colors are still wet, make some “blossoms”. Lift out color from other wet colors. When dry, draw into your painting with a black fine point marker. Create textures. Create shading with dots.

**Project 5: Fluidity - The Review Project**

**Directions:** On a piece of scrap paper, make a contour drawing of a still life. Trace the still life drawing onto a larger piece of watercolor paper. Use only three colors. Paint next to some of the colors while they are still wet so the colors bleed; drop colors into other wet colors to create “blossoms”; lift out colors with a tissue to make white or lighter areas.