

Gakonga

Artist(s)



Gakonga was born in a small village near the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro but is now based in the United Kingdom. As a young boy, he lived on a farm in a village where there was not much reprieve from the monotony of farming, however, when his father left the farm, Gakonga would experiment with plant dyes and sea shells in his father's mud hut. Gakonga relocated to England in the mid 90s, in the year 2000 he was trained to become an artist in education through a scholarship from Essex County Council to enable him to provide art education in schools. In the year 1997, Gakonga was recognised for his talent by Her Majesty the Late Queen Elizabeth II and was invited for a tea at Marlborough House.

Year 5 Surface and Colour Skills:

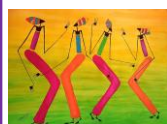
1. Demonstrate a secure knowledge about primary, secondary, warm and cold and complementary colours
2. Use paint to create visually interesting pieces
3. Create mood in paintings
4. Experiment with wet on dry, wet on wet and gradient wash painting techniques
5. To use oil/wax pastels to create a wax resist

Vocabulary

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| wax-resist | using a waxy medium to create a design; a wash of colour is layered over the design to create a desired effect based on the fact that wax repels water | wet on dry painting | a technique that involves applying wet watercolour paint onto a dry surface. This surface could be dry paper or a layer of already dried paint |
| wet on wet painting | a painting technique in which layers of wet paint are applied to previously administered layers of wet paint | graded wash | a gradual change in the value or intensity of the colour as the wash progresses |
| tertiary colour | a tertiary colour is made by mixing equal amounts of a primary colour and a secondary colour together. There are six tertiary colours. On the colour wheel, they sit between the primary and secondary colour they are mixed from. | | |

What are we learning?

1



- Gakonga is an artist who came from humble beginnings however he was inspired to capture the magic of life through **colour**
- Gakonga's work lets colours dance across the blank white paper bringing joy to the lifeless page
- He captures the burning gold and reds of a dying sunset and the **warm exuberant colours** of the tribal dances
- Songs and dance are all part of **Kenyan culture** and every painting has its own **joyful rhythm**, which aims to bring joy to others

2

- Primary colours** are: red, yellow and blue
- Secondary colours** are: green, orange and purple
- Tertiary colours** sit between primary and secondary colours in the colour wheel
- Complimentary colours** sit across from each other on the colour wheel
- Warm colours** remind us of things associated with **heat**
- To know how to use watercolours to create a **graded wash**
- To use a **wet on dry technique** with watercolours
- To use a **wet on wet technique** with watercolours



3



- Wax** repels water
- Different watercolour techniques will create different effects
- Warm colours** will convey the feeling of joy
- Planning a piece of artwork allows the artist to think carefully about their **choices**

5



- Choices** made during the creative process, such as **selection** of **colours** and **watercolour techniques**, impact the final **outcome**
- Creating** art means going through a series of steps and there are **challenges** along the way
- Explain how the final piece is **similar/different** to Gakonga's work
- Looking at the fine **detail** of a piece of art can reveal where slight **improvements** to learnt techniques can be made

4

- Sketch** figures before colouring them with wax
- Wax should be applied before watercolour
- Warm colours should be used



Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 Surface and Colour Skills