

Art Fluency

Scaling UP!

How do we begin to move towards making larger and larger works?

What are the considerations of proportion and composition as well as the practical.

And what are some of the ways to support our creativity and mindset in the making of bigger paintings?

You will already have some ideas about thinking and mindset in making larger work from the starter questions.

So, let's begin with some practical suggestions that may in help in taking our work larger.

Energy

When working large, as with any size of painting, keeping your creative energy flowing and not having to stop can be really important so setting up the work space and materials can really help with this.

Paint: A useful step can be to identify your palette and pre-mix larger quantities of paint in advance, storing it in air tight tubs so it is readily available for use.

Tools: Have all of the tools you think you might need laid out and readily available.

Space: Organise your space so that you have to room around freely as much as possible.

You may want to ensure that your working space is ready to accommodate painting larger for the session on Monday by pre mixing your paint and hainvg all your tools readily available.

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Scale and Proportion

Painting larger will also require that your brushes and tools also increase in size so that your mark making increases proportionately to the large size of the painting.

As you go larger you will also want to be able to see the whole of the painting so that you can experience it in its entirety as you make decisions about how to develop your work.

It can also be really helpful to consider the scale and proportion of composition, form and line in your current work. If you were to increase the size of some of your paintings by 2 or 3 what would that mean for the proportions of the elements in your work.

Exercise:

Take one of your current paintings. I suggest you choose something relatively simple for this exercise. To help with the process you might find it helpful to take a photo of the piece and turn it into black and white.

On one of your large pieces of paper make a simple sketch scaling up the painting significantly. Block in all the elements and lines so that the proportions are equal to the original version. You can use simple materials like graphite, charcoal or black and white paint if you prefer.

Break out Discussions:

What was most significant for you about doing this exercise?

What was easy and what was difficult

What have you learnt about scaling up your work?

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Warming Up When Scaling UP

I find it really useful to get warmed up if it's been a while since I have painted anything large. This often means a quick intuitive free expression painting on large sheets of paper to get my muscle memory alive and connected to the sort of gestures I make when I am painting large pieces.

Before you begin your large painting you may find it helpful to spend 10 minutes doing something similar using your big tools and on a large piece of paper.