# **Lesson Plan Title:** Contemporary Nagual in the Style of Alexandra Blum

# Grade Level: 3rd

# Learning Objective:

Students will become familiar with the work of Alexandra Blum, and understand the concept of positive and negative space to create a painting of their nagual.

**Vocabulary:** silhouette, profile, space, positive space, negative space, organic or freeform shape, geometric shape

Concept/Theme: animals

#### Materials:

pencil, paper, liquid tempera paint, paintbrushes, found objects for printing or stamping, projector or lamp to create a silhouette, computer with internet access

### Resources:

http://www.aliblum.com/

http://www.missionartistsunited.org/artists/429 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LneSj0u8U\_E

pictures of animals from magazines, books, and the internet

# Introduction (Day1):

After completing the listening and observing activity for the unit, introduce students to Alexandra Blum's artwork by going to her website. Direct students to her "About" webpage to learn about her inspirations and artistic style. After reading about her, allow students some time to navigate the website and view her work. Have students hold a class discussion describing what makes her artwork unique or interesting. Direct students to her mixed media pieces and ask students what steps she might have taken to make the paintings. Introduce the vocabulary words during this discussion.

# Project Procedure:

#### Day 1: I can draw a silhouette.

Hold a discussion about what 3 components are necessary to create a shadow. Set up the projector or lamp to create shadows on the wall. Pair up students, and show them how to sit in profile view to trace their partner's silhouette. Once they finish tracing, have students go back to their tables and draw animal features to the traced silhouette. They may use their sketches from the observation activity for reference or pictures of animals from magazines, books, or the internet

# Day 2: I can paint or stamp shapes to create a background.

Have students begin painting the background using liquid tempera paint. Refer back to Blum's artwork to talk about the shapes and textures she created in her backgrounds. Show students how they can print/stamp found objects to create interesting geometric or freeform shapes in their background. Talk about her influences or inspirations and ask students to make connections between their dreams and their animal or themselves.

## Day 3: I can paint or stamp shapes to create a background.

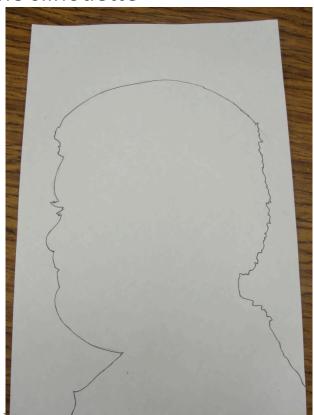
Students continue painting the background.

# Day 4: I can paint the silhouette.

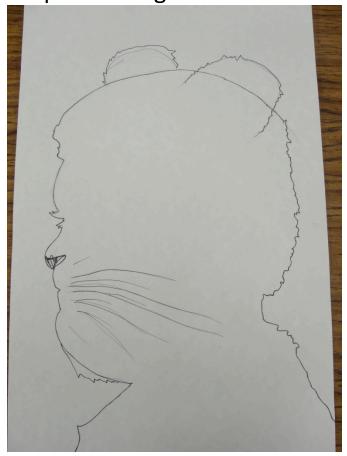
Tell students today they will paint the silhouette of their painting. Students choose a color to paint their silhouette. They begin by using the tip of the brush to paint the outline. Then finish painting the inside of the silhouette using the same color.

Step 1: Drawing the silhouette





Step 2: Adding animal features



Step 3: Create a background



Step 4: Outline the silhouette



Step 5: Paint the silhouette

