Workshop 5: Fresco Workshop

Learning Objectives
-To learn about the process of fresco painting
-To gain direct exposure to the process of fresco
-To be able to identify and the materials used in creating a fresco
-To understand how fresco differs from other types of paint media
-To engage in group discussion about the process of fresco-making
-To collaborate with your peers in order to create a multi-tiled fresco
-To understand why fresco is a more permanent/enduring form of painting.
-To recognize the safety precautions that are necessary to work in fresco.

Curricular Tie-Ins:
-This fresco workshop serves as a teaching mechanism for painting conservation because the instructor will discuss how this type of painting is both created and restored.
-This workshop will help students evaluate the following broader questions that this conservation class addresses:

-How do materials and manufacture influence appearance, aging, preservation, etc.?
-How does time impact objects?

`-What are the goals of cleaning and restoration? *and* Why is conservation sometimes controversial? (This can be answered with a discussion of the infamous cleaning of the Sistine Chapel)
- Because each student is given a small part of a larger fresco design, students must engage in group discussion about large-scale fresco creation.

Supplies List:

- 6x6 ceramic tiles (Home Depot)
- Butcher paper/ Newspaper to cover workspace
- Water
- Bucket
- Lime, pre-slaked (Kremer) ~ 2 kgs.
- Sand, fine playground (Home Depot)
- Images/ “Cartoons” to transfer onto tiles (optional)
- Smocks
- Gloves
- Paint stirrer stick for mixing lime and sand
- Lime milk (pour off from lime) for painting
- Plastic spoons/scoops for lime and sand
- Plastic scraper tools/ popsicle sticks for smearing lime
- Note: Don’t use metal tools with lime (corrosion)
- Plastic paint palettes
- Pokey tools for cartoon transfer
- Glass rods

- Paint brushes of various sizes
- Droppers
- Pigments
- Scissors

Steps:
1. Wet the ceramic tiles with water
2. Pour off liquid (lime milk) for later processes, and then transfer lime to a bucket
3. Add fine sand into the bucket (ratio of lime:sand = 1:1)
4. Use a wood stirrer to mix sand with lime
5. Apply the mixture onto a tile
6. Use a plastic scraper tool to spread out the mixture evenly
7. Let the tile dry for 15 minutes
8. Cut the cartoon into approximately the same size as the tile
9. Transfer the outline of the cartoon onto the tile with a pokey tool
10. Add water to used pigments with a dropper
11. Transfer pigments to a paint palette with a glass rod
12. Add a little lime milk from step #2 to pigments with a dropper
13. Paint the tile with brushes
14. Let the tile dry

Safety:
- Do not use metal tools to contact lime because lime will corrode metal
- Always wear gloves because lime is highly alkaline, and it will dry hands
- Always wear aprons
- Do not use toxic pigments such as Vermillion Red. Instead, we should use synthetic pigments