Colorful Emotion Portraits

Explore emotion through color, and paint or collage a self-portrait or a portrait of a friend. What colors tell the story of the subject? How do warm or cool colors affect mood?

Experiment with mark-making tools around your home such as q-tips, string, or even brushes to create expressive effects. You will need a drawing or painting surface, anything to paint or color with (markers, paint, pencils, crayons), colorful collage materials, mark-making items, glue, scissors.

Examples of emotions:
Red: Love and Anger
Orange: Energy and indulgence
Yellow: Happiness and Hope
Green: Serenity and Prosperity
Blue: Calmness and Relaxation
Black: Power and Mystery
White: Clarity and Grief

Step 1:
Choose your favorite color scheme that best depicts you or a friend's portrait.

Step 2:
If you choose to, sketch your portrait and select collage materials.

Step 3:
Begin coloring your portrait, keeping in mind where you want to place each color.

Step 4:
Glue collage materials and let wet media dry.

Step 5:
Think about how the use of color makes you feel. How would the mood change if you made the background a different color?