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.

Is the background warm or cool? Is the hair bright or dark?
If collaging, where will you place your pieces?

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?