Sample Lesson Plan for 1-2 week Residency Period:

Introduction: Painting from observation in the elements engages students and provides them with opportunities of success because it is infinitely challenging to respond and record directly from life using pencil, brush, chisel, etc. It is a shared experience of land, climate, desire, and learning about one’s place within the cultural, physical, emotional and spiritual realms interpreted from the environment.

Day 1: Students begin exploring and studying plants, trees, fish, and animals inhabiting Juneau. They use references materials of local plants and animals of Juneau to form simple collages. Then, they translate the collage into a 10 x 10 or 10 x 15 inch drawing using drawing materials such as graphite, charcoal, pastel, erasers, and ink.

Day 2: Teacher presents on historical modes of painting from the land, beginning with Paleolithic cave paintings to present artworks. Students create five drawing studies of plants native to Juneau that have been brought into the classroom and arranged into a simple still life.

Day 3: Student chooses one study from day 2 that shows the most clarity of composition. The group takes a fifteen minute walk outside together to experience a state of mindfulness. Then, group returns to the classroom and begins a painting using a grisaille to form their underpainting.

Day 4: Group takes a field trip to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum to observe collection and to select one landscape-oriented artwork or artifact that they will write a short statement about. Student describes the context of the selected object and how the composition or medium of the object helps shape its content in 1-2 pages. Student draws an 8 x 8 or 8 x 10 compositional study in their sketchbook using graphite, pen, or marker at the museum.

Day 5: Teacher presents on types of paints and brushes commonly used in oil painting. Students paint on top of their underpainting from day 3 using pre-mixed monochromatic value shifts.