

IN BALINESE STYLE

An Art Activity

Suitable for Grades K - 6

Created by Tina Fonderin, a kindergarten art docent at Placer School in Loomis, California. She developed the following successful art lesson based on ***Gecko's Complaint***:

After reading the story together, Tina and the students looked through the book and studied how the artist created each page. The children noticed that the pages were very colorful and were filled with many varieties of plants and animals. Tina told them that ***Gecko's Complaint*** was an example of classic Balinese artwork. She announced that they would soon create our own Balinese style paintings.

Next, she showed them the steps that Gusti used to create *Gecko's Complaint*.

Step 1 Using a regular pencil, Gusti drew in every detail he planned to paint. He erased and redrew until the pencil sketch was perfect.

Step 2 Next Gusti used paints called guwash to paint his pictures. Since guwash is not used often here in America, the students used a similar medium: watercolors. Tina demonstrated how to add just a small amount of water to each watercolor so that their paintings would be bright like Gusti's.

Step 3 Then finally, Tina demonstrated how Gusti traced around every leaf, tree and animal with a fine black pen to highlight the details in his painting

After the demonstration, it was the children's turn. It took them three periods to complete their work: one for pencil drawing, one for painting and finally one to ink in all the details. Their artwork turned out beautifully! They kept referring back to the book to study Gusti's approach. The level of concentration during this project was very high as Tina's young students did their best to create their own lovely Balinese-style painting!