



**Advanced Students, SCMAC Winter Painting 2012**  
**The ICON**

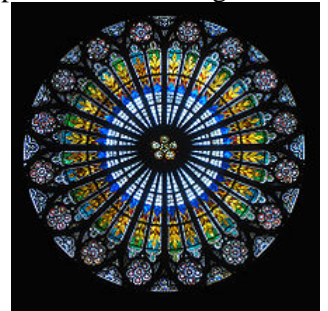
(Left: "Theotokos of Vladimir" icon, 12th century)  
 Originally for religious purposes, an icon was an object that held significant religious meaning.

According to Wikipedia, in modern culture and icon is "an image, picture, or representation; it is a sign or likeness that stands for an object by signifying or representing it either concretely or by analogy, as in semiotics; by extension, *icon* is also used, particularly in modern culture, in the general sense of symbol — i.e. a **name, face, picture, edifice or even a person** readily recognized as having some well-known significance or embodying certain qualities: one thing, an image or depiction, that represents something



else of greater significance through literal or figurative meaning, usually associated with religious, cultural, political, or economic standing." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icon>

Choose a sign (**name, face, picture, edifice, person..**) to signify your theme. You may or may not want a border or aura with imagery. The icon should fill the canvas/support but not go off the edges.



Another approach could be abstraction or predominantly non-objective imagery, such as a mandala, rose window, symbol... Some strategies might include geometry, the development of formal elements and contrast systems or what ever strategy you desire to create an abstract work which has a meta-language (formal significance) in relation to your theme.

(left: Ester Hernandez)  
 The work needs to carefully consider overall impact of icon, creative investigation of media, manipulation of paint and the possible incorporation of additional materials, experimentation, surface integration and layering of media/materials, as well as clarity of theme and unified formal elements.



(below second from left: Yolanda López, *Portrait of the Artist as the Virgin of Guadalupe*)

