

MASTERPIECES of COLORADO

A RICH LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING



Use this lesson while viewing the exhibit AND in the classroom .
(Students can complete the sketching part of this lesson while viewing the exhibit.)

Abstract Landscape

Grade Level: 2-6

Duration: Four or Five 40-50 minute class periods

Materials: Examples of landscapes either electronic or posters, attached handout, shades of gray, white, black and a few bright colors of construction paper, mat board to glue the landscape to (we used 9" x 9" mat board), white glue, white oil pastels

Colorado Standards: Visual Arts 2 and 3

DESCRIPTION:

Students will learn the basic components of a landscape painting. Students will simplify one painting, reducing it to basic lines, shapes, and textures. From this new design, students will use torn paper and white pastel to create an abstract version of a landscape.

PROCEDURE:

(Four to five class periods)

1. Before viewing the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit, the whole class can look at various landscapes paintings or photographs, showing different habitat. Discuss the common elements of each of the pieces of art. Make sure to identify the various layers of the landscape that are laid out in a receding series of **horizontal lines**. Also, point out how the artists use **space** and point out the **foreground**, **middle ground**, and **background** of each work of art. Note that in the foreground there is often a very large tree or rock. As objects recede further into the background, they get smaller.
2. Use the attached worksheet as a guideline while viewing the show. Ask students to select one of the paintings and do a rough sketch of the painting. The rough sketch should include the horizontal lines, outline of major **shapes**, and **textures** that are most evident in the painting. Encourage students to sketch a painting that has a definite foreground, middle ground, and background.
3. Back in the classroom, students will use their sketch to create an **abstract** landscape. Using shades of gray and black construction paper, have students tear the horizontal lines in their landscape sketch. Place these layers onto the piece of mat board. Students will also tear the large shapes in the foreground. Encourage the use of **contrasting** hues of gray and black to depict the various layers of the landscape. Check the layout of the torn paper and students may begin to carefully glue their layers onto the mat board.
4. When the layers and shapes are glued onto the board, students will use the white oil pastel to draw in texture and pattern on each layer of the landscape. Before drawing on their final landscape, the whole class should review the concept of drawing patterns. Using simple lines and shapes, ask students to practice drawing **texture** and **pattern** on a separate sheet before moving to their final piece of art. When satisfied with the lines and shapes which are the best for the landscape, students will use their white oil pastel to depict texture on the various layers in the torn landscape. Students should be aware that the pastel will smear if it is rubbed with their arm or hand.

ADAPTATIONS:

Older students can create a painting using this same concept. If white pastels are unavailable, try using a white or black crayon.

EXTENSIONS:

Use the basic concepts of space to teach perspective. Students can create a cityscape using perspective, pattern and texture.

MASTERPIECES *of* COLORADO

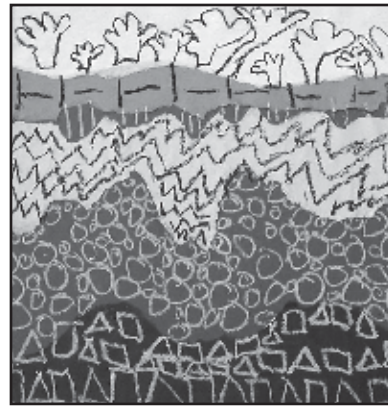
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Name _____

Sketching a Landscape

While viewing a landscape painting, create a rough sketch of one of the paintings. Make sure you show a foreground, middle ground, and background in your sketch.



Sketch your landscape here:

