

# MASTERPIECES of COLORADO

A RICH LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING



Use this lesson while viewing the exhibit AND in the classroom.

## Abstract Landscape Printmaking & Collage

Grade Level: 6-12

Duration: 5 to 6 40-50 minute class periods

Materials: Attached handout, pencil, Soft Kut block for printing (or linoleum or wood block), we used a 11" x 16" block, block cutting tools, water-based ink, brayer, inking plate, paper suitable for printing.

Colorado Standards: Visual Arts 2, 3, 4, 5

### DESCRIPTION:

Students will study landscape paintings and create simple drawings using only lines and shapes. The drawings will be turned into a linoleum or wood block and printed onto paper with water-based inks.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Students will view the 2007 *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit and complete the attached handout. They will complete two sketches on this handout. The first sketch requires students to look for the focal point, the major horizontal lines, and the most prominent textures. In the second sketch, students will look at their first sketch and "abstract" it. In order to abstract the initial drawing, students should recreate sketched lines into stronger and wider lines. Rocks, trees and other landmarks can be reduced to geometric shapes.
2. Students should look for the opportunity to create pattern with lines and shapes to enhance their composition. A successful composition will have strong areas of line, shape, and pattern.
3. Back in the classroom, students will redraw and refine their composition to its final size. The drawing will be transferred to the Soft Kut with graphite or carbon paper. Use linoleum-cutting tools to carve out the white areas of the design. (The teacher should be familiar with linoleum safety tests and make sure the students know the proper way to use the tools.)
4. When the design is completely carved out, students can begin printing. Use a brayer and water-based ink to coat the block with ink. Place blank printing paper on the block and run the block and paper through the printing press. If there is not a press available, students can use spoons or fist to press the paper starting from the center and working to the outer edges. Pull the paper from the block to reveal the print. Let the print dry and collage into the print, experiment with color, or keep it as it is.

### ADAPTATIONS:

Young children can use Styrofoam instead of linoleum. Styrofoam can be drawn into with a pencil and printed without a press. Experiment with colored inks or white on black paper.

### EXTENSIONS:

Use colored inks, one color at a time, or mix several colors right on the plate. Students can experiment with collage and printmaking. This can be done two ways. One is to collage the paper before printing on it and the other way is to collage the print after it completely dries. Using white glue and water along with tissue paper is a good solution to collage. Use care when adding collage to a dry print. Do not rewet the ink, as it will smear.

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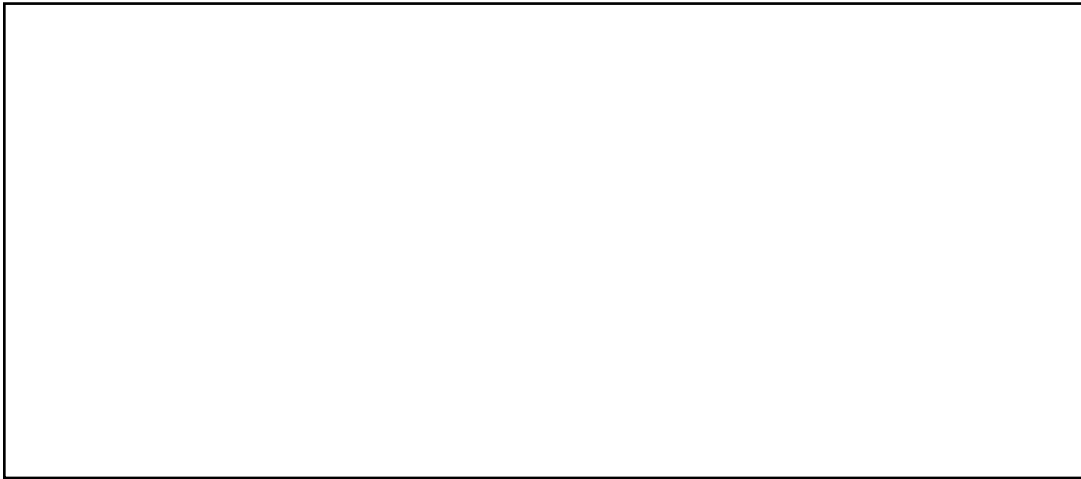


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sketching and Abstracting a Landscape

While viewing a landscape painting, you will make a rough sketch. Look for the major **horizontal lines**, **shapes**, and **textures** to include in your sketch. After the sketch is complete, do a second drawing. This drawing will be bolder and stronger. You will look for the most prominent features in the landscape and use these to create a composition. Create a **rhythm** and **patterns** from the lines that you see in the landscape.

First Sketch:



Abstract Sketch:

