

# MASTERPIECES of COLORADO

A RICH LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING



Use this lesson while viewing the exhibit AND in the classroom

## Landscape Painting

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**Grade Level:** 9 - 12 (Art Students with some experience in painting)

**Duration:** Depends on depth of the project

**Materials:** Acrylic or watercolor, brushes, canvas, examples of landscape paintings, Colorado landscape painting background information handout.

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

### DESCRIPTION:

High school students will explore more advanced painting techniques when completing a landscape inspired by the work of landscape painters and the habitat of Colorado.

### PROCEDURE:

Students will study the art of landscape painters by viewing the paintings in the *2007 Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit. In addition to viewing the show, students can do research through books or on the internet of the various artists' styles from the 1800s to the present. Use the attached handout for background on Western landscape painters and styles.

If possible, students should create their initial sketches on location. A field trip or Saturday excursion would be beneficial for students to obtain *plein air* experience. Do not overlook parks and open space areas in the neighborhoods around the school. Colorado landscape drawings and paintings do not all have to be of the mountains.

### ADAPTATIONS:

Younger students can also create plein air landscape paintings. If painting in the outdoors is impossible, students can work from photographs or sketches made after attending the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit.

Consider using specific artist's styles to teach this lesson. For example, the Impressionistic style of Sven Birger Sandzen or the printmaking of George Elbert Burr represented in the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit could be used as springboard for student painting or printmaking.

### EXTENSIONS:

Students can take the same view, use different light treatments, or use different styles or techniques in two or more paintings.

