

Tree

(2 Days)

Principle: Drawing and painting from nature

Concept: Each artist will interpret a subject in their own unique way.

Objective: To create a painting of a tree using watercolor pencils and watercolors.

Supplies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ One 1/2 sheet of watercolor paper per student and One 5" x 5" watercolor paper for practice✓ pencils and erasers✓ watercolors✓ watercolor pencils✓ Coarse kosher salt poured into small containers✓ watercolor brushes & tubs of water✓ paper towels✓ pictures of trees cut out from magazines (please bring some in.)✓ black and white images of trees (in folder in yellow cabinet in art room)
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Pre-Class Prep:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cut full sheets of watercolor paper in half (the finished size should be approx. 12" x18")• This is a 2 day class. Take your time with demonstrating, practicing and drawing on the first day. The second class should be mainly for painting.
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Set-up:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Display sample board of trees by famous artists (print # 300 in sample print file)• Set out watercolor pencils.• Distribute watercolors, brushes, water bowls and pencils to each student.• Distribute black and white tree photos from binder labeled "tree photos 3rd grade" in yellow cabinet. Keep photos protected in plastic sleeves. Try to encourage different trees at each table.• Distribute watercolor practice paper. Have larger sheets ready.
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Prints: #300

Samples: See third grade art folder

Lesson: **Demonstration:** Show the students paintings and drawings of trees by famous artists. Talk about how some of them are realistic and some are more abstracted. Talk about how each artist has a different style, or way of showing what they see. Talk about the different lines, shapes, and textures that each artist used in their trees. Show the students the Van Gogh paintings of trees and the photo of where he was painting. Ask the students if they think his paintings look like the photo? Tell the students that Van Gogh did not paint from a photo but went out into nature to paint.

Artist sometimes will exaggerate color to make the tree aesthetically pleasing. Demonstrate color washes (wetting the paper and applying color onto the wet paper creates a color wash). Tell them that you can layer watercolors to create interesting color and texture. After they paint with watercolor they can accentuate some of their lines with watercolor pencils. Show them how to use watercolor pencils. Make sure the students press down using watercolor pencils to ensure dark, bright colors. Show them how to brush water on top of their colored areas to create a watercolor effect. They can blend colors using the brush and a little water. Too much water will rip the paper! They can use dry pencils on top of wet areas for adding details. Use the paper towels to blot excess water.

Show students how salt will interact with watercolors. **Salt Effects:** To create a mottled pattern, first paint the background with watery saturated colors. Then sprinkle salt on the wet paint and watch the salt pull in the colors. Let the paint dry completely; then just brush off the salt!

Have students practice techniques on their sample paper.

Students: Distribute large paper. Have the students write their names on the paper. Let the students choose one of the black and white images of a tree. Have the students **LIGHTLY** sketch their tree with watercolor pencils. They can sketch the whole tree or just a detail of the tree. They can be realistic or abstract. Remind them to draw their tree big. There is nothing wrong with a tree that has branches that go all the way off the page! After they LIGHTY sketch their tree, have them paint their tree with watercolors and watercolor pencils using techniques they just learned. Discuss using a variety of lines and colors. Again show them the famous artists' trees. The first day will be devoted to demonstration and drawing the tree the second day will be painting and adding detail. Some of the students will be ready to start painting on the first day so have the watercolors, brushes and tubs of water ready.

Instructions for Instructors

If there is time, hold up some of the trees the children have painted from the same image. Ask them what differences in style they see in the artwork? Which is more realistic or abstract? Which has more detail?

Watercolor paper is expensive. We want to teach the children that there are no mistakes only happy accidents. Artists will take a "mistake" and creatively change it into something else. Some of the most beautiful art work starts with a "mistake". Remember with watercolor paper you can always blot out an area with a wet paper towel.

Lesson plan created by Michelle Smit