



# Art Through the Year

with Sharon Jeffus

## Lesson 11: Seascapes & Ocean Life

In this lesson, we will look at beautiful seascapes created by master artists to see how they used the elements of art: line, shape, form, value and texture. In the first 2 projects, we'll practice drawing boats at sea with high contrast using charcoal and white chalk—copying a Winslow Homer piece and then creating our own stormy ocean scene. Then in the third project we'll try our skills at 3D form with clay and using contrasting textures to create charming ocean wildlife sculptures.

### Masterpieces Referenced:



A Fishing Schooner, by Winslow Homer, 1884

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Winslow\\_Homer\\_-\\_A\\_Fishing\\_Schooner.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Winslow_Homer_-_A_Fishing_Schooner.jpg)



The Gulf Stream, by Winslow Homer, 1899

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Gulf\\_Stream\\_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gulf_Stream_(painting))



Breezing Up (A Fair Wind), by Winslow Homer, 1876

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breezing\\_Up\\_\(A\\_Fair\\_Wind\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breezing_Up_(A_Fair_Wind))



Gloucester Harbor, by Winslow Homer, 1873

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Winslow\\_Homer\\_-\\_Gloucester\\_Harbor\\_\(1873\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Winslow_Homer_-_Gloucester_Harbor_(1873).jpg)

**“It is wonderful how much depends upon the relations of black and white... A black and white, if properly balanced, suggests colour.”**

— Winslow Homer



**Masterpieces Referenced:**



*The Fog Warning*, by Winslow Homer, 1885  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Fog\\_Warning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fog_Warning)



*Clearing Up—Coast of Sicily*, by Andreas Achenbach, 1847  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas\\_Achenbach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Achenbach)



*Coast Scene on the Mediterranean*, by Washington Allston, 1811  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allston,\\_Washington\\_-\\_Coast\\_Scene\\_on\\_the\\_Mediterranean,\\_oil\\_on\\_canvas,\\_1811.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allston,_Washington_-_Coast_Scene_on_the_Mediterranean,_oil_on_canvas,_1811.jpg)



*Storm Rising At Sea*  
by Washington Allston, 1804  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Storm\\_Rising\\_at\\_Sea.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Storm_Rising_at_Sea.jpg)



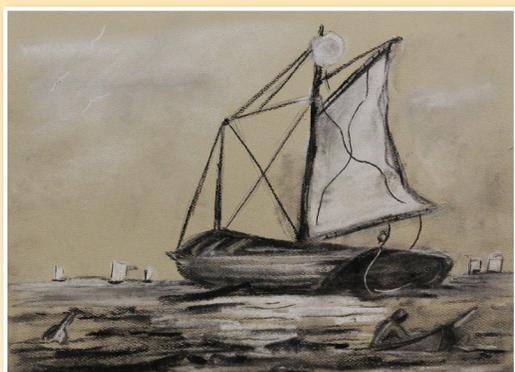
*Surf on a Rocky Coast*  
by Andreas Achenbach, c1835  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas\\_Achenbach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Achenbach)



*Ships in Peril*, by Andries Van Eertvelt, c1623  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andries\\_Van\\_Eertvelt-Ships\\_in\\_Peril\\_1623.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andries_Van_Eertvelt-Ships_in_Peril_1623.jpg)

**“Titian, Tintoretto, and Paul Veronese [16th century master artists] absolutely enchanted me, for they took away all sense of subject... It was the poetry of color which I felt, procreative in its nature, giving birth to a thousand things which the eye cannot see, and distinct from their cause.”**

— Washington Allston



## Project 1: Seascape in Charcoal & White Chalk

Using the elements of art line, shape, contrast and value, we'll copy the masterpiece, "A Fishing Schooner," by Winslow Homer and create a high-contrast seascape with rich charcoal and white chalk on brown pastel paper, (or substitute with brown paper bags or kraft paper). Learn to create dramatic effects as you mix and blend the black and white values together.

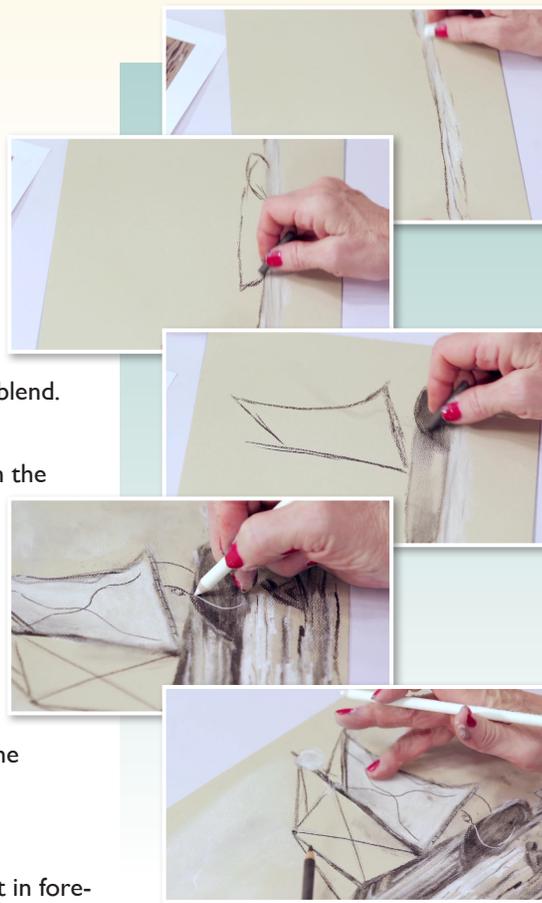


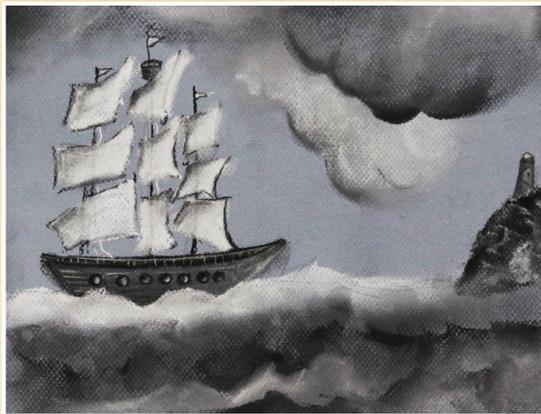
### Materials List:

- Pastel paper (9" x 12") or kraft paper or brown paper bag
- Willow charcoal
- White chalk pastel
- Blending Stump or Tortillon
- Charcoal pencil
- White charcoal pencil
- Drawing pencil
- Kneaded or white artist eraser
- Krylon Spray Fixative

### Let's get started...

1. Print out the masterwork, "A Fishing Schooner," for reference. (Page 7)
2. Turn the paper horizontally, draw a horizon line 1/3 way up from bottom of page with willow charcoal.
3. Add lines in the water with charcoal, then go over with white chalk and blend with fingers.
4. Sketch the outline of large boat, then with charcoal, add value and blend with your fingers.
5. Outline the sail and with white chalk, work on adding value to the sail and blend. Add some shading with the charcoal, always blending and smoothing.
6. With charcoal, add more lines in the water. Make sure to use heavy lines in the foreground and softer, thinner lines as you move back to the horizon line to create perspective. Use an eraser to lift the charcoal for nice effects.
7. Add some white in the sky and smooth out with fingers.
8. Go back to the large boat and add more shading with charcoal and white chalk, blending both together. Add details to your boat and sail with a charcoal pencil, white charcoal pencil, blending stump and eraser.
9. With white chalk and charcoal, add the boats along the horizon, a man in the boat and message in the bottle floating in foreground.
10. Add a reflection in the water with white chalk and blend into water.
11. With charcoal pencil and white charcoal pencil, add details to the little boat in foreground and the boats along the horizon line. Have fun and add birds in the sky.
12. Add the final touches by using willow charcoal in the lower corners and bottom of paper to create bold, dark ripples in water.
13. Spray the drawing with a fixative. This will prevent unwanted smudging and transferring of pigment.





## Project 2: Tall Ship in the Storm

Create a dramatic scene of a fancy, tall ship in a storm with high contrast in values using charcoal and white chalk on pastel paper. Creating movement in your seascape can tell a story... the tall ship is encountering a storm and wants to be saved by the lighthouse.



### Materials List:

- Blue pastel paper (9" x 12")
- Willow charcoal
- White chalk pastel
- Blending Stump or Tortillon
- Charcoal pencil
- White charcoal pencil
- Drawing pencil
- Kneaded or white eraser
- Krylon Spray Fixative

### Let's get started...

1. Turn the paper horizontally, and sketch a basic outline of the tall ship, horizon line and cliff with lighthouse. Look at page 8 reference of drawing a tall ship.
2. Use willow charcoal and add values to the ship, blending with your fingers. Add the sails, then color them in with white chalk and blend with a blending stump. Add shading with charcoal and blend.
3. Add value to the ship with white chalk and blend.
4. Use a charcoal pencil, white charcoal pencil, and blending stump to add details to the ship and sails.
5. Shade in lighthouse with charcoal and add details with white & charcoal pencils.
6. With willow charcoal and white chalk, add layers of colors in a circular motion and blend to create a stormy sky with large, rolling clouds.
7. Also use white chalk and willow charcoal to create choppy waves in the water; alternating layers of color and then blending well with your fingers.
8. Add value with willow charcoal to the rocky cliff with the lighthouse and blend. Then go back over the cliff with white chalk to add a texture pattern.
9. Spray the drawing with a fixative. This will prevent unwanted smudging and transferring of pigment.



## Project 3: Sculpting Ocean Life

We will create three sculptures of ocean animals out of air-drying clay incorporating the elements of art: form and texture. This project will show how using different textures in one sculpture can create contrast and make your piece more interesting.



### Materials List:

- Terra Cotta air-dry clay
- Sculpting tools
- Cup of water
- Pencil (optional)



For younger students.

For older students.

### Let's get started...

Print a sample of ocean animals for reference, available on page 8.

### Sharon's Sculptures:



### Open Shell:

1. Roll clay into a ball and cut in half with a sculpting wire. Then pinch each half into a bowl (pinch pot) shape.
2. Push together both pinch pot halves creating an open shell, then add lines with a sculpting tool to the back of shells for texture.
3. Roll a tiny piece of clay into a smooth ball and place inside shell.



### Dolphin & Coral:

1. Roll clay into a ball and use side of hand to press down and create a place for dolphin to lay. Using a sculpting tool or pencil end, create a coral texture on your base.
2. Start your dolphin body by rolling clay between your hands creating a cylinder shape. Then pull out one end to create a nose. Take a piece of clay and make your dolphin tail shape and then press it into the body. Make sure to smooth the two sections together leaving no seams. Add water along the two seams as you work them together and along the body to make dolphin very smooth. Take a piece of clay to make triangle shape for the fin and attach it to the body.
3. Lay dolphin in coral base. Then create two triangle shaped flippers and attach them to dolphin body, one on each side.
4. Roll two pieces of clay into long cylinders for coral and apply a texture on each. It's important to create a new texture on these cylinders that's different than the coral base. Attach them to the original coral base the dolphin is on.



### Textured Starfish:

1. Roll three equal cylinder shape pieces and lay on top of each other creating a radial star. Push the cylinders together in the middle and flatten until you have a starfish shape.
2. With a sculpting tool (or even with end of a pencil) make repeated indents into the starfish creating a consistent texture. Experiment with different tools/objects to create interesting textures.

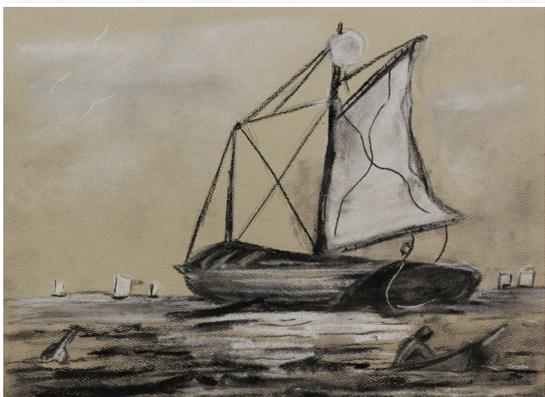


**Project 1: Seascape in Charcoal & White Chalk (Copy a Master)**



A Fishing Schooner, by Winslow Homer, 1884

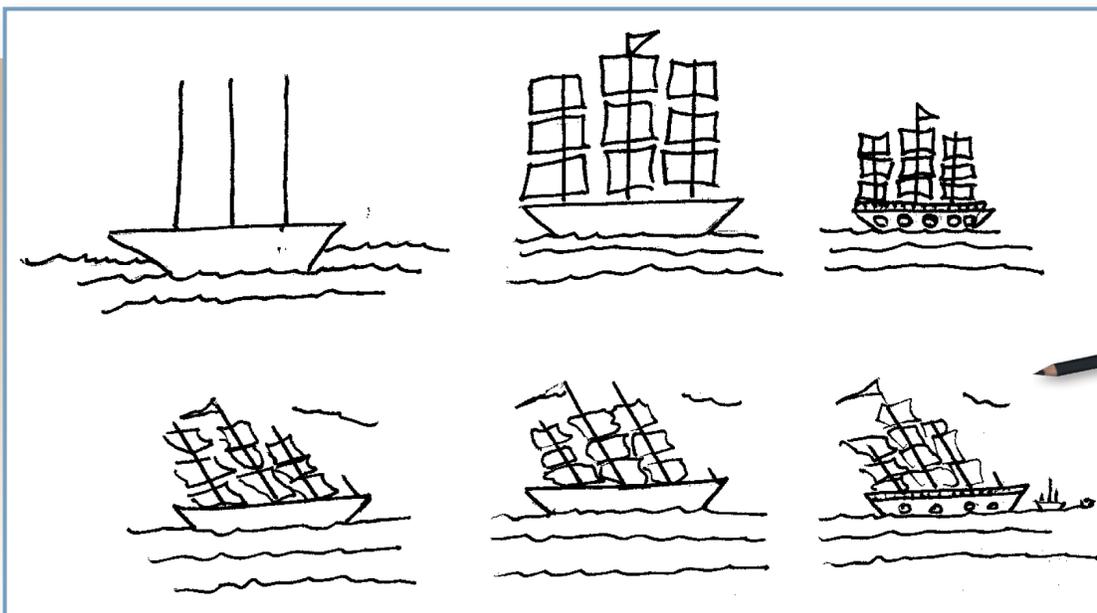
**Sharon's Artwork:**



**Project 2: Sharon's Tall Ship in Storm**



**Drawing a Tall Ship:**



*Project 3: Ocean Life References*

