



Art Through the Year

with Sharon Jeffus

Lesson 3:

Value & Texture with Landscapes

In Lesson 1 and 2, we learned about line and shape. This lesson will explore two more elements of art, value and texture. An artist is a master at seeing light and how light falls. We will learn about atmospheric perspective—where the sky is darker at the top of the picture and becomes lighter as it approaches the horizon line. We will create two landscape paintings while learning several painting techniques to produce interesting textures. To see how another master artist has captured beautiful landscapes and atmospheric perspective on canvas, we'll look at German-American artist Albert Bierstadt.

Bierstadt Masterpieces Referenced:



The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak, 1863

<http://metmuseum.org/collections/search-the-collections/10154>



Staubach Falls Near Lauterbrunnen Switzerland, 1865

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bierstadt_Albert_Staubbach_Falls_Near_Lauterbrunnen_Switzerland.jpg



Storm in the Mountains,

1870

<http://www.mfa.org/collections/object/storm-in-the-mountains-33126>



Island of New

Providence, 1891

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bierstadt_Albert_Island_of_New_Providence.jpg



Looking Down Yosemite Valley,
California, 1865

<http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/albert-bierstadt/looking-down-yosemite-valley-california-1865>



Indian Canoe, 1886

<http://collection.blantonmuseum.org/Obj13990?sid=2757&x=2300110&port=86>

“Truly all is remarkable and a wellspring of amazement and wonder. Man is so fortunate to dwell in this American Garden of Eden.”

—Albert Bierstadt



Project 1: Mountains & Trees

In this project, you'll create a mountain landscape similar to Bierstadt's *Staubbach Falls* by starting with wet wipes to create a loose underpainting, and then going back in with a brush to add fine details and trees. You'll create atmospheric perspective by using darker colors and elements at the top and bottom of the page and progressively lighter colors as you move to the horizon line.

Materials List:

- Watercolor paper (9" x 12")
- Tape
- Wet Wipes
- Acrylic Paints:

– White	– Yellow
– Blue	– Brown
– Green	– Black
- Willow Charcoal or pencil
- Flat Paint Brush (#10)
- Art Sponge
- Utility Bristle Brush (1"- 1½")



Underpainting...

1. Print a copy of Sharon's sample mountain underpainting to use as a reference. (Page 5) Start with your paper (turned vertically) with all four edges taped to an easel (or other hard surface).
2. Using a wet wipe as a paint brush, start painting back and forth with white paint the top 1/3 of your paper. Pick up blue paint and blend in your sky with back and forth strokes, keeping your darker blue at the top and blend to lighter blue as you come down your paper.
3. Use blue paint to add mountains with jagged up and down strokes about 1/3 down your paper. The first row should be lighter and as you add your second row of mountains, they should get darker, creating atmospheric perspective.
4. Add white clouds in the middle area of your painting. Pick up green paint and create several hills on the left and right side of the paper, framing your clouds and valley area, adding whites and yellows to add interest and value. Use yellow and some green to finish your valley area.
5. Set painting aside to dry.

Finishing details...

1. With charcoal or pencil, draw the basic outline of your trees.
2. Using a flat paint brush, apply brown, white, and black paint to fill in your trees. Make sure your tree is lighter on one side to create value and add fun textures for the bark.
3. Add interesting texture to your hills with an art sponge and green paint, or you could mix blue and yellow to make your own greens.
4. For another texturing option, use a dry utility brush to paint various colors into the hills, valley, and tree branches.

Samples of Student Artwork:



BONUS:

Learn more about landscapes and painting trees with this 1958 video of Disney animators showing their various painting techniques.
<http://www.wimp.com/paintingtechniques/>



Project 2: Sunset Beach Silhouette

In this project, you'll create a warm sunset underpainting by applying yellow, orange, red, and white with a wet wipe. Then you will go back in and use a paint brush to add your horizon and palm tree silhouette.

Materials List:

- Watercolor paper (12" x 9")
- Tape
- Willow Charcoal or pencil
- Wet Wipes
- Acrylic Paints:
 - Yellow – White
 - Orange – Black
 - Red
- Flat Paint Brush (#10)
- Utility Bristle Brush (1")

Underpainting...

1. Print a copy of Sharon's sample sunset underpainting to use as a reference. (Page 7) Start with a paper (turned horizontally) with all four edges taped.
2. Draw a light pencil line 1/3 down paper for the horizon line. Using a wet wipe as a paint brush throughout, start painting a yellow sun and its reflection.
3. Pick up orange paint and blend in your sky and water around the sun in a horizontal movement. Incorporate white and red, with the orange, to add value to the painting. Make sure your painting is smooth and blended.
4. Add some red paint to horizon line to define it, but keep it blended. In the lower left of paper add more red to give appearance of water. With yellow, go back and define the sun some more.
5. Set painting aside to dry.

Finishing details...

1. With charcoal or pencil, draw the basic outline of your palm tree starting in the lower left corner.
2. With a flat brush and black paint, make your horizon line with short, vertical bumpy strokes.
3. Paint the foreground and palm tree in the lower left corner, filling in the pencil line drawing. To create bark, use the wide side of the flat paint brush and make short strokes stacking on top of one another. Continue with the coconuts and with the thin side of the paint brush, create your wispy palm leaves, almost using a dry brush technique.
4. For extra interest, add a boat to the water. To add grass to the lower left foreground, use the dry brush technique with a utility brush and black paint.

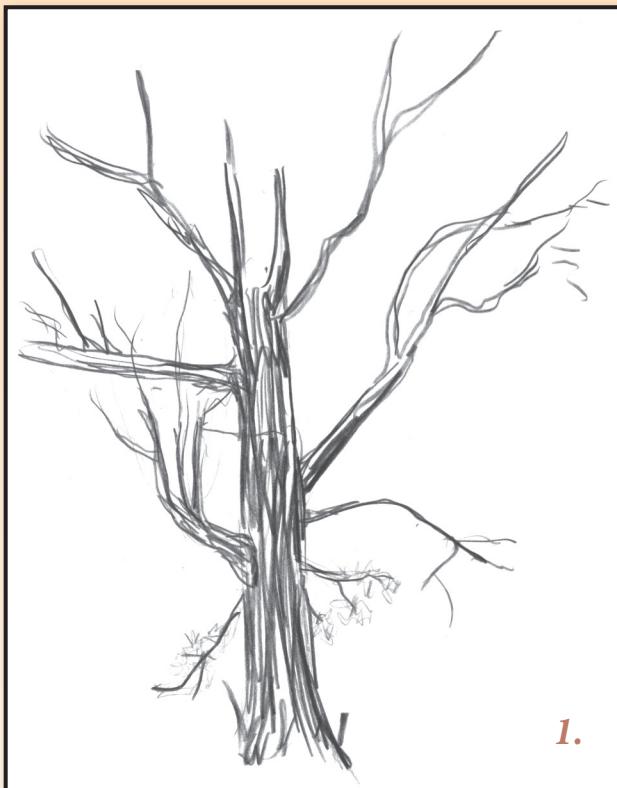


Samples of Student Artwork:

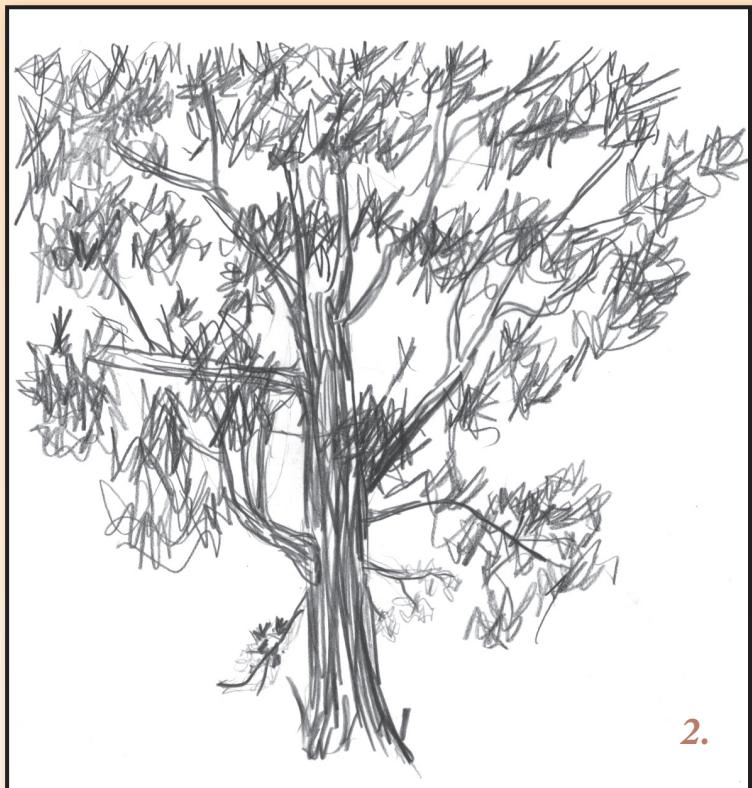




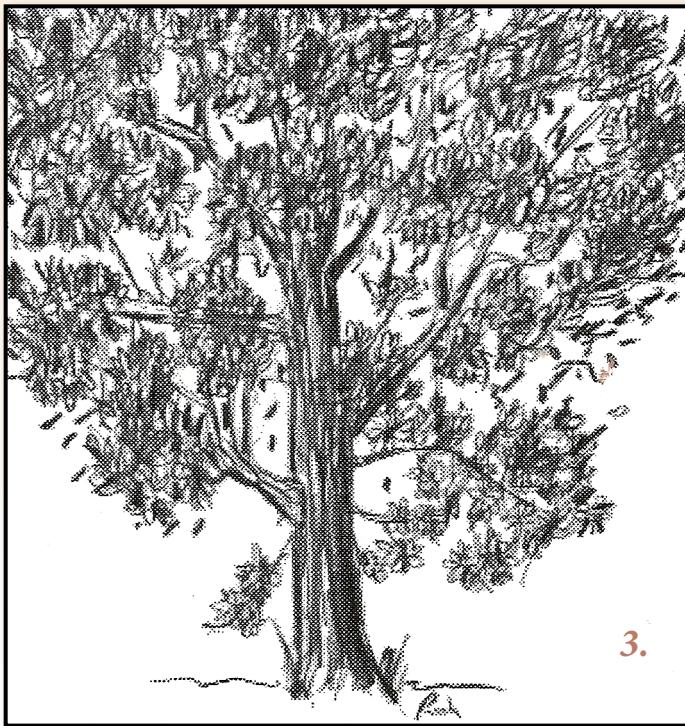
Extra Practice: How to Draw Trees



1.



2.



3.

Step 1:

Start by finding an actual tree. This is one near my house next to a meadow. Draw the trunk and main limbs.

Step 2:

Next, fill in the broad areas of leaves. You don't have to draw each individual leaf yet. Just define the areas with shading and shadows.

Step 3:

Now draw individual leaves. Use light and dark leaves to intensify the shadows, giving depth to the shading and add highlights. Draw individual leaves apart from the shadows or groups of leaves. These individual leaves can be "not connected" to anything, or you may want to draw fine lines to them to indicate the small twigs. Lastly, draw the ground line.

Project 1: Mountains Underpainting



Project 1: Mountains & Trees



Project 2: sunset Underpainting



Project 2: sunset Beach Silhouette

