



Art Through the Year

with Sharon Jeffus

Lesson 5: Outer Space Art

Some of the most beautiful things in the world are seen in the stars and we can appreciate the wonder of creation just by looking at them. We'll get started by looking at sample masterpieces and their use of "chiaroscuro"— the use of strong contrasts between light and dark to achieve a sense of volume. In the first project, we'll create an outer space picture with oil pastels on black paper and learn how to use shading to create a sense of depth on a black background. Then we'll move to the second project and create a tree and nighttime landscape on black paper incorporating the Big Dipper. Both projects will help us build on the elements of art learned in the previous lessons: line, shape, texture, value, form, and color.

Masterpieces Referenced:



Astronomer Copernicus, or Conversations with God by Jan Matejko, 1873
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jan_Matejko-Astronomer_Copernicus-Conversation_with_God.jpg



Astronomer by Candlelight by Gerrit Dou, late 1650s
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gerrit_Dou_%28Dutch_-_Astronomer_by_Candlelight_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg



The Astronomer, by Johannes Vermeer, c1668
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Johannes_Vermeer_-_The_Astronomer_-_WGA24685.jpg

The Milkmaid by Johannes Vermeer, c1660
<http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/johannes-vermeer/the-milkmaid>



“The sky is the ultimate art gallery just above us.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Project 1: Shading Techniques with Celestial Objects

In this project, you'll create a magnificent picture of various celestial objects using oil pastels on black paper. Remember that even in outer space, objects are not just one color and you need to use shading to create depth.

Materials List:

- Black Paper (12" x 9")
- Oil Pastels
- Acrylic Paint-white (optional)
- Sponge (optional)



Let's get started...

1. With your black paper placed horizontally, draw the base of your moon in white in the lower left corner and the red planet in the upper right area. Make sure to apply your colors very dark and dense making a solid area of color.
2. Add white to one side of your red planet and black to the other side. Then, with your finger, pull the colors into the center of the planet creating depth and a 3D effect.
3. Make a comet by pressing with white pastel onto the paper to make a dot. Then pull the color with your finger to one side to create a sense of speed.
4. Make a star by making a dot on the paper again and pull the color with your finger to the top. Repeat these step until you have pulled white to the bottom and right and left. Go back in and add your star in the center with white and subtle black shading.
5. Add craters to your moon by making several "C" shapes with black and filling in, then blending with your fingers to create depth. Use black and white along the edge of your moon and blend to make it look fuzzy.
6. Create a galaxy by making a pink oval, add some green, and then pull outwards with your finger to make it look fuzzy and glowing. Have fun and experiment by making a galaxy in any variety of colors. Add some dots in white for stars. Continue to add white dots for stars in other areas of your paper.
7. Create a sun in the upper right with orange and yellow and then blend it out with your finger.
8. Make a nebula with yellow, orange, and pink (or any color combo you choose) cloud shapes and then blend them out to make a cloudy effect. Add some stars in white.
9. For additional fun, you can make a blue marble (Earth) with blue and green pastels. Then with a sponge and white paint, add dabs of color to represent clouds.

Outer Space Variations:





Project 2: Sleeping Under the Stars

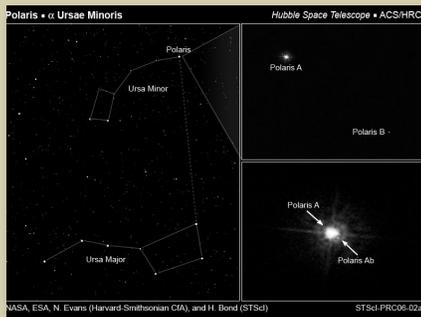
In this project, you'll create a night time scene under the stars incorporating the Big Dipper, the moon, and a campfire.

Materials List:

- Black Paper (12" x 9")
- Oil Pastels



1. With your black paper placed vertically, draw your horizon line 1/3 way up from the bottom with a green pastel.
2. Draw a basic tree on the left hand side of your paper with brown pastel.
3. Create a white circle in the upper right corner for your moon.
4. Fill in the tree with black and white and blend to add depth. Add a hole for a little animals in your tree trunk. You could also add an owl up in the branches.
5. Fill in your moon with white to make it solid. Add shading with black and blend for a 3D effect. Add craters with black and blend. With white, add dots for stars and create the Big Dipper. (See figure A below for the shape.)
6. With white and black, you can create a tent. Don't forget to shade and blend. Add stones with white and black, then a campfire with brown, orange, and yellow to create a warm inviting scene. You can add more trees in the background in various green colors and add some grass around your tree.



A.

BONUS:

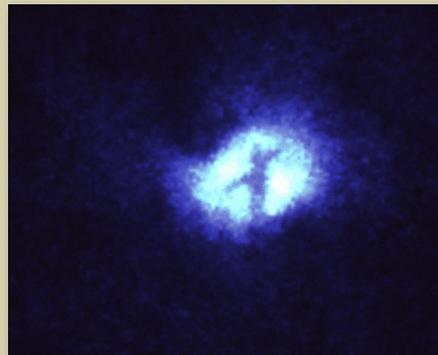
To view a map of the North Star (Polaris) and the list of stars of the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polaris>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Dipper
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursa_Minor

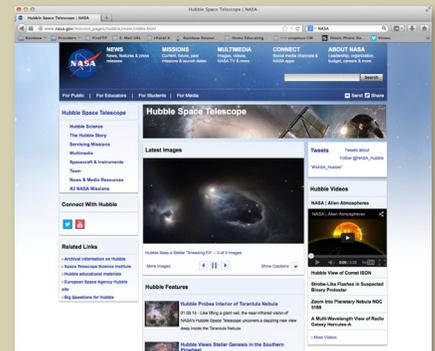
BONUS:

Go to this site below and see a picture from the Hubble Space Telescope that looks like a cross in the sky:

<http://www.skyimagelab.com/m51-cross.html>



B.



C.

BONUS:

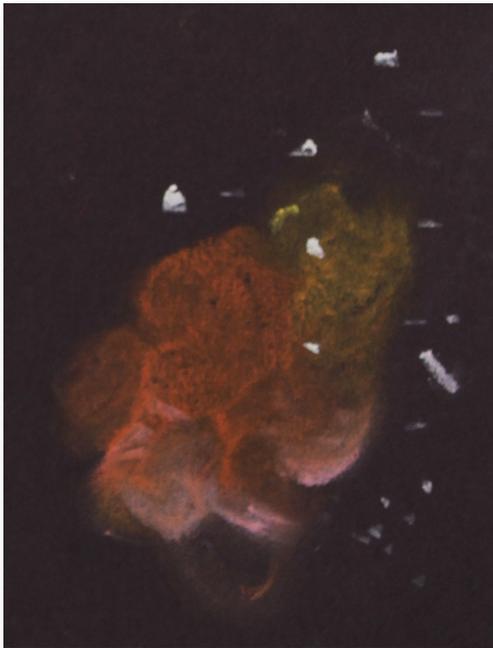
See the latest images and events from the Hubble Space Telescope to get more drawing ideas:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/main/index.html



Project 1: Outer Space

Project 1: Outer Space Variations



Project 2: Sleeping Under the Stars

