



# Art Through the Year

with Sharon Jeffus

## Lesson 9: Art Nouveau & Art Deco

In this lesson, we are going to learn about the two different and distinct art styles known as Art Nouveau and Art Deco. Both styles had a tremendous impact on culture and design and were incorporated into many aspects of everyday life from architecture to jewelry and pottery. We will build on previous lessons and focus on the elements of art: line, shape, color and form. In the first project, we'll create two posters, one in an art nouveau style and one in an art deco style. Then we'll move to the second project, sculpting a horse head, where we'll further explore the two contrasting styles.

### Art Nouveau (1890-1910):

Popular during the 1890–1910 time period, Art Nouveau also is considered a “total” art style, embracing architecture, interior design, and decorative art including jewelry, furniture, textiles, household silver and other utensils, lighting and fine arts. It was inspired by natural forms and structures, not only in flowers and plants, but also in curved lines.



### Art Deco (1920s):

An eclectic style that originated in the 1920s and combines traditional designs with Machine Age imagery and materials. The style is often characterized by rich colors, bold geometric shapes, and ornate decorations and is seen in architecture, pottery, furniture, jewelry, glass art, etc. It emerged from the Interwar period when rapid industrialization was transforming culture.

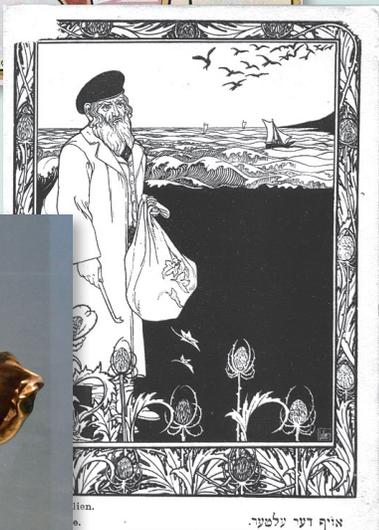


“Art Deco... *“an assertively modern style [that] ran to symmetry rather than asymmetry, and to the rectilinear rather than the curvilinear; it responded to the demands of the machine and of new material [and] the requirements of mass production.”*”

— Bevis Hillier, *English Art Historian*



**Art Nouveau Posters & Artwork:**

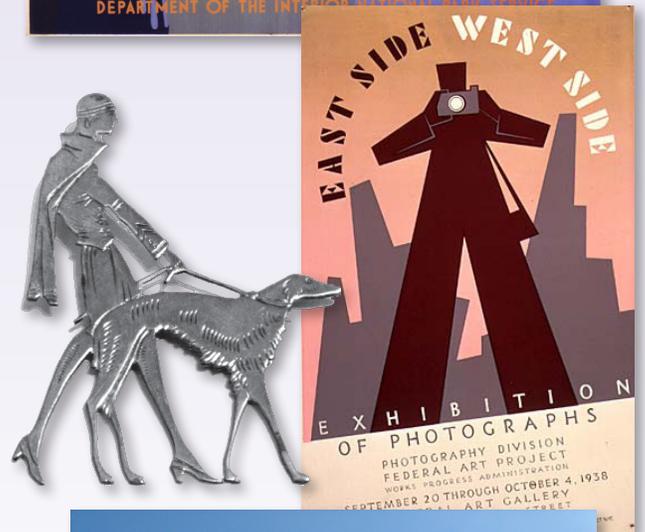


by François-Raoul Larche,  
1900



Girl with Cherry Blossoms  
by Tiffany Glass, 1890

**Art Deco Posters & Artwork:**



Christ the Redeemer  
by Paul Landowski & Heitor da Silva Costa, 1931



## Project 1: Create a Poster

We will learn how to create two colorful posters and compare their use of line and form—one representing the ornate style of Art Nouveau using arabesque lines & shapes and the other having the simplistic style of Art Deco using very straight geometric lines. Even the typography and the use of blending colors will be contrasted.

### Materials List:

- Pencil
- Ruler
- White artist eraser
- Tagboard (12" x 18")
- Markers (felt tip)
- Paper plate



### Art Nouveau Poster:



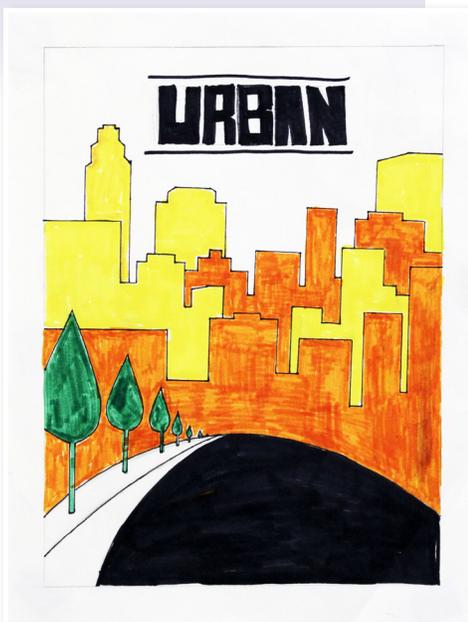
### Let's get started...



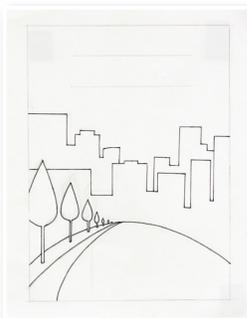
Larger sample of template available on page 5.

1. With pencil and paper plate, draw a round border in an interesting shape or draw just a circle.
2. Draw with marker ornate arabesque lines and shapes around the outside of your frame. To create symmetry to your poster, add same design to all four corners and sides.
3. Sketch a pretty lady or bird to the inside of your poster and add lettering in a fancy looping style. Remember that Art Nouveau is ornate and organic.
4. With markers add color to your background and color in your person or bird with bright bold colors. As you work with your markers, try to create blending effects as two colors meet.
5. Finish your poster by adding several layers of colors to your lettering.

### Art Deco Poster:



### Let's get started...



Larger sample of template available on page 6.

1. With pencil and a ruler, draw a frame for your poster, then draw your lines and shapes for buildings and trees in your cityscape. Notice that the trees get smaller in size as you move to the horizon line.
2. Use markers to create bold lines and bright solid colors to make a clean, dynamic scene.
3. Pencil in two lines and draw out letters of a word, using a blocky, geometric style. Then go back in and fill in with marker to complete your poster.



## Project 2: Create a Horse Sculpture

We will create two dynamic horse head sculptures—one representing the ornate style of Art Nouveau and the other having the geometric style of Art Deco. This project will show how the two different styles can be represented in sculpture.



### Let's get started...

Print a sample of a horse head for reference, available on page 7.

### Materials List:

- Pencil
- Toothpicks
- White Sculpey clay
- Sculpting tools



### Art Deco Horse:



1. Take a block of clay and start modeling it into your basic oval shape for the neck. Make sure to bang it onto a flat surface to create a stable base for your sculpture to sit on.
2. Pull out your head shape and make sure it's long enough for a horse. Check all angles of your work to make sure you are happy with your piece. Remember this is a 3D work of art that will be seen from all angles.
3. Add some clay to the cheek areas of your horse. Add nostrils with the blunt end of a pencil or a sculpting tool by digging into the clay. Then add some clay to form the lip and mouth area.
4. Add ears using triangular shapes and make sure they are attached well. With the blunt end of the pencil, add indentations on both sides of the head to represent eyes.
5. Using your fingers, pinch out the mane from the back of the neck. Using a sculpting tool, push into the mane making a repetitive geometric design to create a stylized Art Deco mane.

### Art Nouveau Horse:

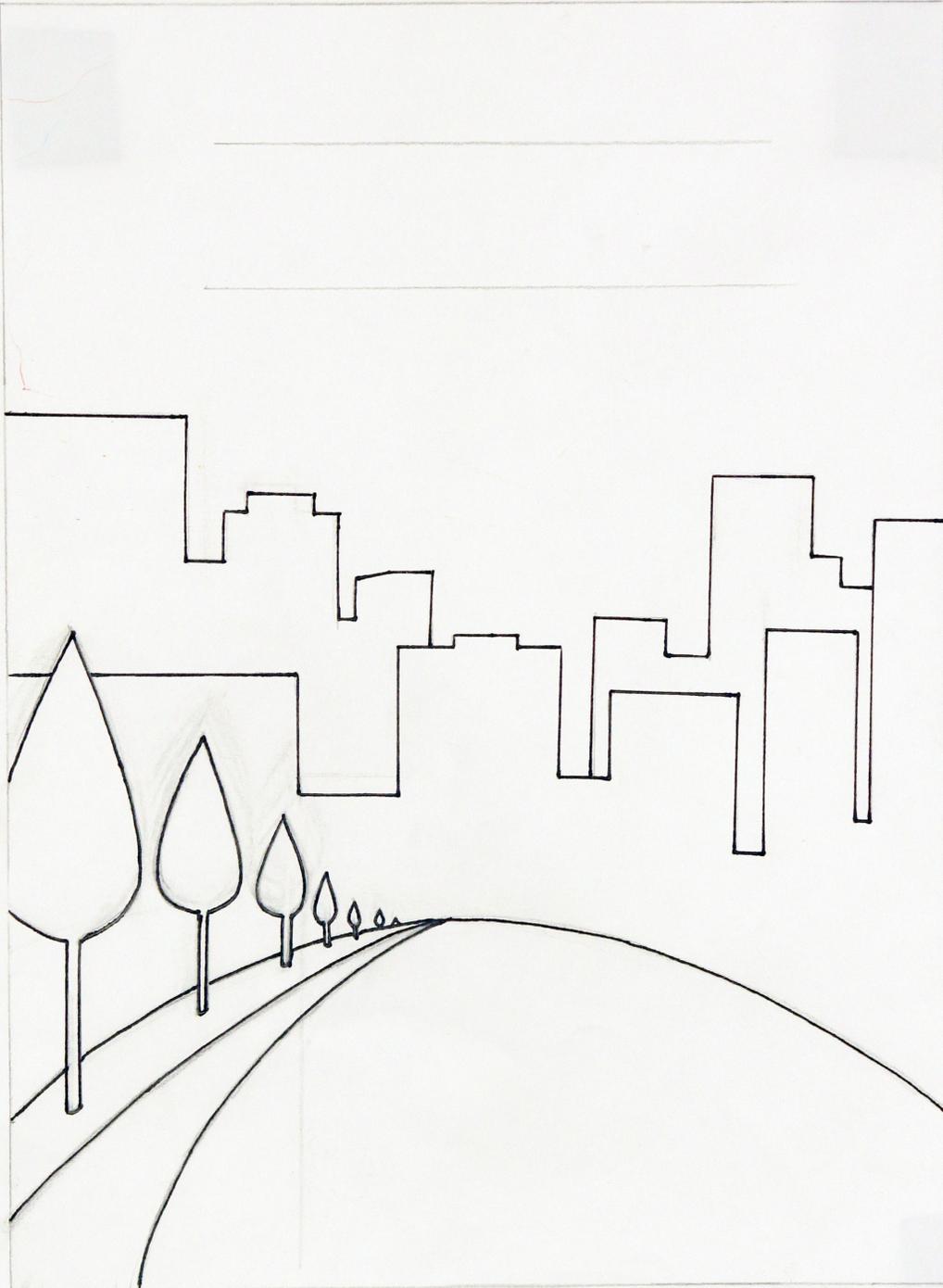


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3. Add some clay to the cheek areas of your horse. Add nostrils with the blunt end of a pencil or a sculpting tool by digging into the clay. Then add some clay to form the lip and mouth area.
4. Add ears using triangular shapes and make sure they are attached well. Push a pencil into both sides of the sculpture to make a place for the eyes. Make small round balls and attached them into these indents for the eyes.
5. With a separate piece of clay create an organic shape and attached it to the back of the neck for an "over-the-top" mane. Add some clay to the front of the head between the eyes for forelocks. With a sculpting tool or a toothpick draw intricate swirling designs into the mane to create a stylized Art Nouveau horse.

*Project 1: Initial Sample Sketch*



**Project 1: Initial Sample Sketch**



*Project 2:* Horse Head References

