Art THROUGH THE Year
SEASON 2

with Sharon Jeffus

Lesson 1

Line & Shape with Swans

Welcome to Season 2 of *Art Through the Year*! In this lesson, we are going to study the many interesting and beautiful qualities of swans as well as ballerinas imitating swans. First, we'll look at paintings by master artists and then learn how they interpreted these subjects. Then we'll use the elements art: line and shape, to create our own pictures. In Project 1, we'll use basic lines and shapes to draw a swan. Then we'll create watercolor effects with a wet cloth. In Project 2, we'll continue using lines and shapes to draw a ballerina and then create fun textures with other media.

Masterpieces Referenced:

Common American Swan, by Audubon • c1838

White-Headed Eagle, by Audubon • c1831

A Water Spaniel Attacking a Swan on its Nest, by Jaques Charles Oudry • 1740

In the Blue Expanse, by Arkady Rylov • 1918

"Being born in a duck yard does not matter, if only you are hatched from a swan's egg."

— Hans Christian Andersen

Masterpieces Referenced:

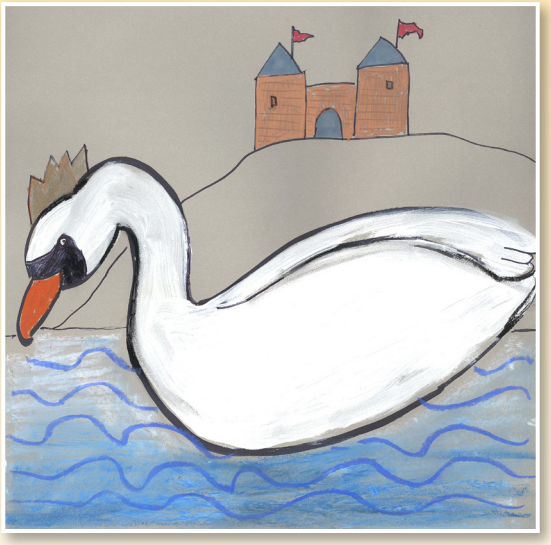
"The Dying Swan", Anna Pavlova • 1905

Fin d'arabesque, by Degas • 1877

Dancer with a Bouquet of Flowers, by Degas • 1878

"They call me the painter of dancers. They don't understand that the dancer has been for me a pretext for painting pretty fabrics and for rendering movement."

— Edgar Degas



Project 1: Drawing a Swan

Create a beautiful fairy tale swan using the elements of art: line and shape. Simulate fluid watercolor washes with markers and a wet cloth to watch the colors blend across the page.

Materials List:

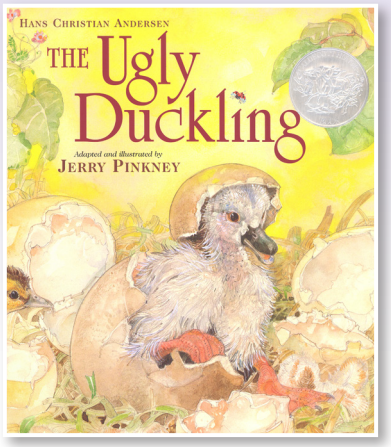
- Tagboard Paper (12" x 18")
- Pencil
- Markers
- Baby Wipes

Let's get started...

1. For a fun drawing space, cut the 12" x 18" paper down to 12" x 12".
2. Using a pencil, draw the basic lines and shapes of your swan. Refer to page 5 for a step-by-step breakdown of drawing a swan.
3. Once you have your swan drawn, go back with a black marker and create your outlines.
4. Using water-based markers like the fruity scented Powerlines, color in your picture.
5. Using baby wipes or a damp cloth/paper towel, move over the colored areas creating a fluid wash-like watercolor effect. This is a great way to create a picture that looks like it's painted without the mess of painting.
6. Explore and have fun!

Sharon's Literature Inspiration:

The Swan Princess, illustrated by Ivan Bilibin • 1905



by Hans Christian Andersen • 1843

Project 2: The Ballerina

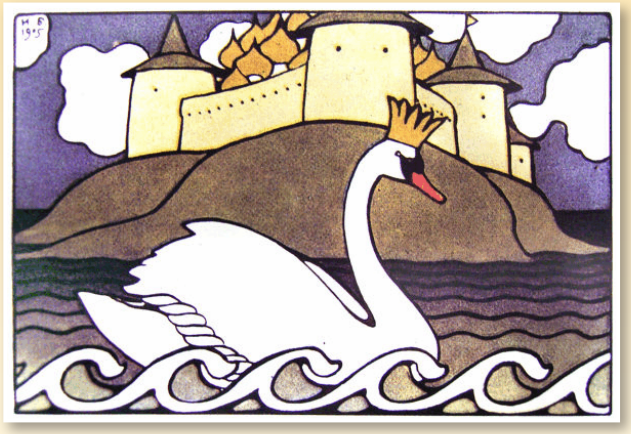
Make a whimsical ballerina drawing come to life by adding dimension and texture with sparkling glitter and fluffy tissue paper.

Materials List:

- Tagboard Paper (12" x 18")
- Markers
- Glue
- Glitter
- Metallic Markers
- Tissue Paper

Let's get started...

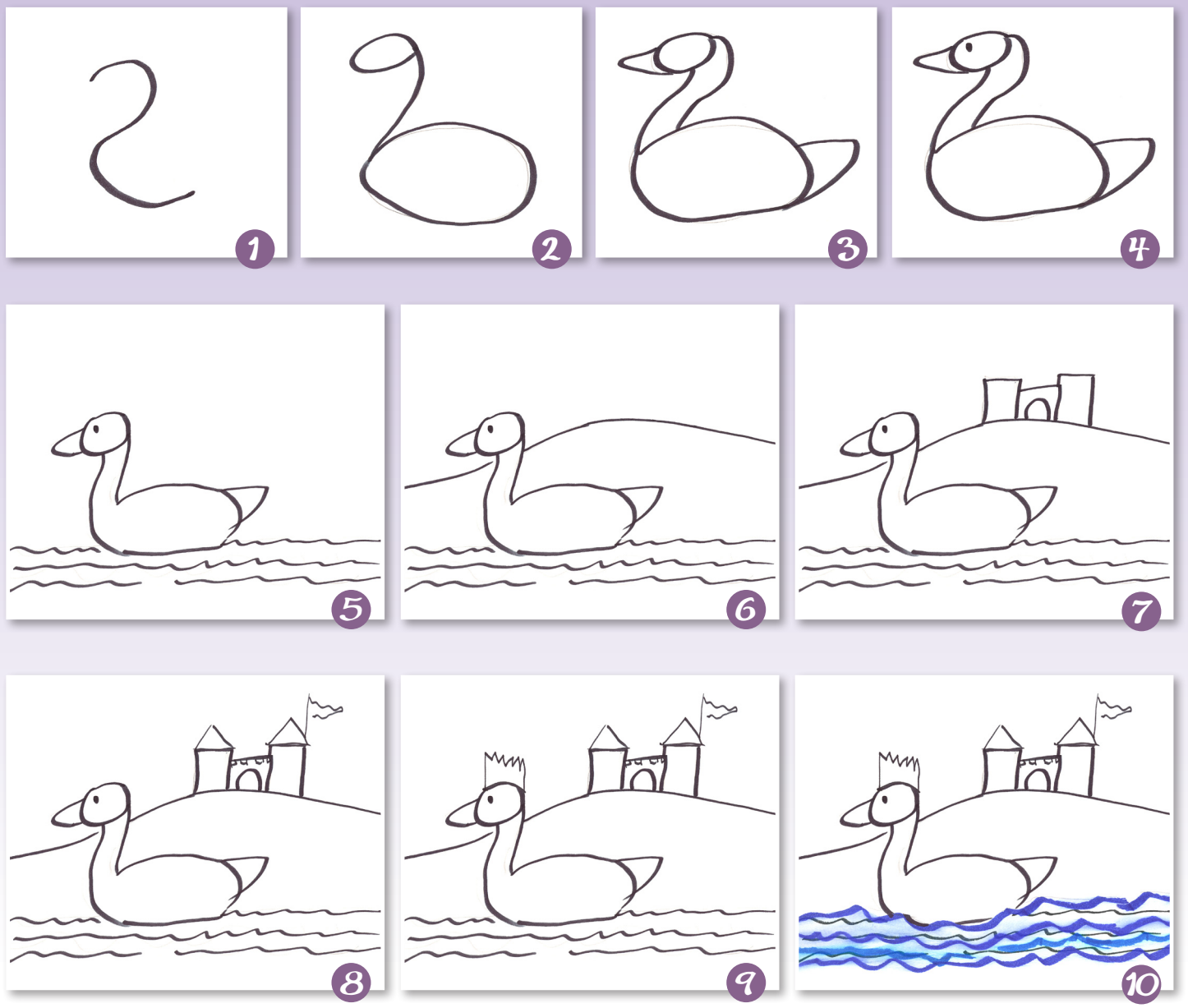
1. For a fun drawing space, cut the 12" x 18" paper down to 12" x 12".
2. Draw circles for the head and body of ballerina. Continue drawing basic shapes until the little dancer is complete.
3. Color in your drawing with regular markers or metallic markers for shiny accents.
4. Cut rectangular pieces of tissue paper and crumple them up to make layers of the tutu. Glue these onto your picture one color layer at a time.
5. Using glue, draw over the stage lights and other areas of your picture that you want to add glitter to.
6. Sprinkle on glitter for a dazzling ballerina!



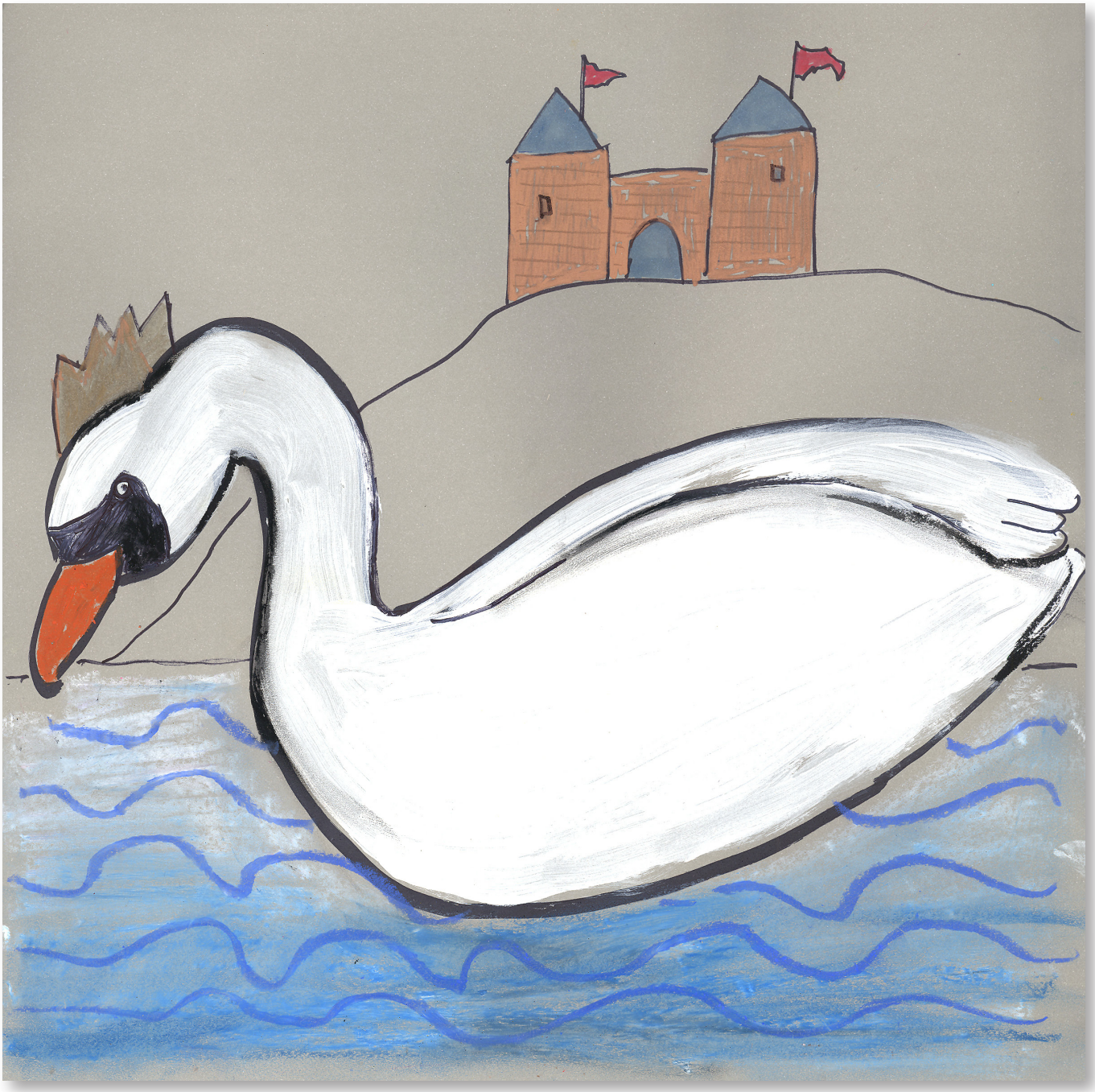
The Swan Princess, illustrated by Ivan Bilibin • 1905

Project 1: Step-by-Step Breakdown

1. Start by drawing a backward curvy "S" line.
2. Draw one circle for the head and another for the body.
3. Finish the neck, then add a triangle for the beak and one for the tail.
4. Add a dot for the eye.
5. Draw wavy lines for the water.
6. Add a horizon line 2/3 up from bottom of page.
7. Draw the castle walls.
8. Add the roof, flag and other details to the castle.
9. Make the swan a princess by drawing a crown on her head.
10. Color in the picture with markers, using a wet cloth to blend the water.



Project 1: Sharon's Final Artwork



Project 1: Students' Final Artwork

Cheyenh • **Age 8**

Ramsey • **Age 4**

Project 2: Sharon's Final Artwork

Project 2: Students' Final Artwork

Cheyenh • Age 8

Ramsey • Age 4

Dusti • Age 6