



In this lesson, we are going to study trees—a wonderful subject in art. Trees come in different sizes, shapes and can change dramatically from season to season. First, we'll look at paintings by master artists and learn how they interpreted trees in nature. Then we'll use the elements of art: line, shape and texture to create our own pictures. In Project 1, we'll draw and paint trees in different seasons. In Project 2, we'll continue using lines and shapes to draw cartoon trees with various facial expressions.

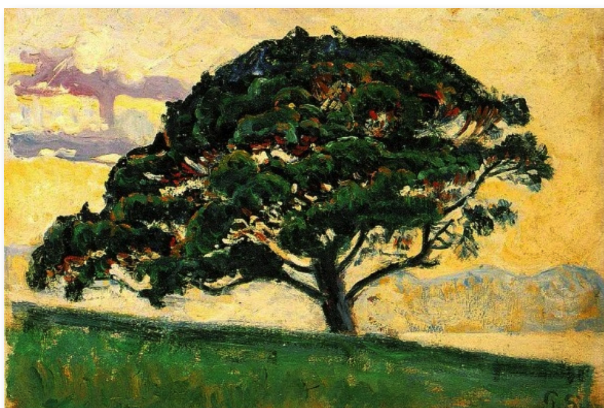
Masterpieces Referenced:



Våren, by Carl Larsson • 1907



Herbstlandschaft or "Autumn Landscape", by Van Gogh • 1885



The Pine Saint Tropez, by Paul Signac • c1909



The Hunters in the Snow, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder • 1565

“... in all nature, for instance in trees, I see expression and soul...”

—Vincent van Gogh

Trees in Different Seasons:

What do you see from season to season? Do the colors in the scene change? Does the texture on top of the tree change from season to season? What about the birds who visit the trees, are they different?



Spring/Summer

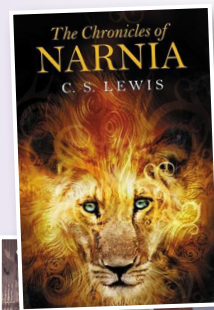
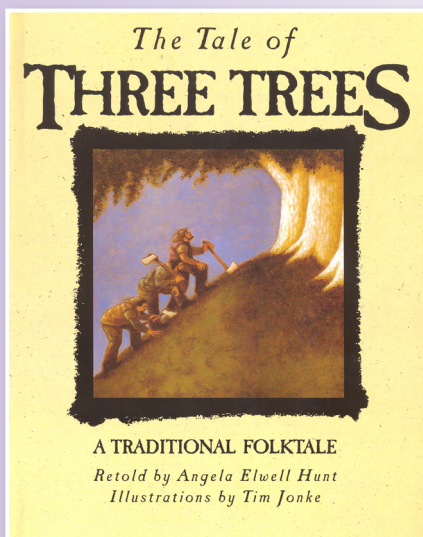


Fall



Winter

Sharon's Literature Inspiration:



“Art is a creation of a higher order than a copy of nature which is governed by chance.”

— Paul Signac



Project 1: Seasonal Trees

Create a whimsical tree using the elements of art: line, shape and texture. With mixed media, create the various treetop textures of summer, fall and winter.

Materials List:

- Blue Construction Paper (9" x 12")
- Oil Pastels
- Tissue Paper
- Glue (bottle or stick)
- Sponge
- Tempera Paint: red, yellow & white
- Cotton Swabs



Let's get started...

1. With your paper vertical, use the brown pastel to draw the tree trunk and first two branches making a letter "Y". Crayons could be substituted for the oil pastels.
2. Draw a horizon line for the tree. Then add more "Y"s for the tree branches.
3. With a black pastel or crayon, draw the fence. Then add lines to the tree trunk creating a bark texture. You could also add a large dot in the tree for animals to live in. Or add a bird to the fence (see page 5).
4. **Summer tree...** Tear off pieces of green tissue paper and crumple them up and glue them to the treetop creating a 3D texture. Continue gluing on tissue paper until your tree is full.
5. **Fall tree...** With a sponge dipped in both yellow and red paint, start dabbing colors onto your treetop. Continue this across the treetop making a fun texture. Add dabs of yellow and red to the ground for falling leaves.
6. **Winter tree...** Draw a bird (see page 5) in the foreground of your picture and color it in. Then with a cotton swab, add little dots of white paint across your picture creating snow. Add snow to the tree branches and along the ground.



Sharon's Seasonal Trees:



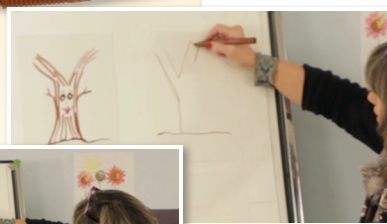


Project 2: **Cartoon Trees**

Let's make animated cartoon drawings of trees using lines and shapes. Adding different facial expressions to the trees make them come to life and tell a story.

Materials List:

- White Paper (9" x 12")
- Markers
- Wiggle Eyes (optional)



Let's get started...

1. With your paper vertical, draw a line for the ground where your tree will be standing.
2. Draw the "Y" of the tree trunk and the main branches. Continue drawing more letter "Y's" for the rest of the branches.
3. Draw two branches, one on each side of the trunk, to represent arms and hands. Decide if you want your tree to be surprised, sad or maybe angry, then draw your eyes and mouth on the trunk to reflect that. Add eyebrows to further express the tree's emotion.
4. Add texture to the tree by drawing vertical lines up the trunk and lines out the branches.
5. Add a hat to your tree and other fun items that tell a story. Perhaps some falling apples or a birds' nest with babies. Finish by coloring in your tree with markers.
6. For even more fun, you could add wiggle eyes to your tree's face! Or maybe to the little animal hole in the trunk. What's living inside your tree?

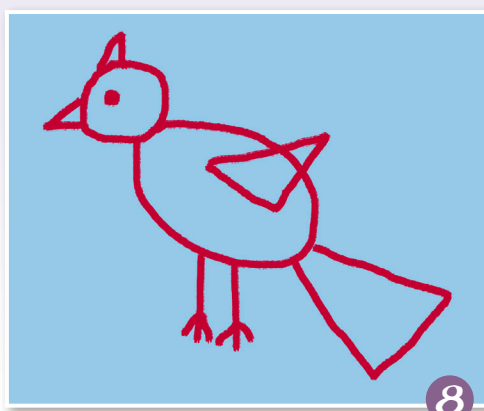
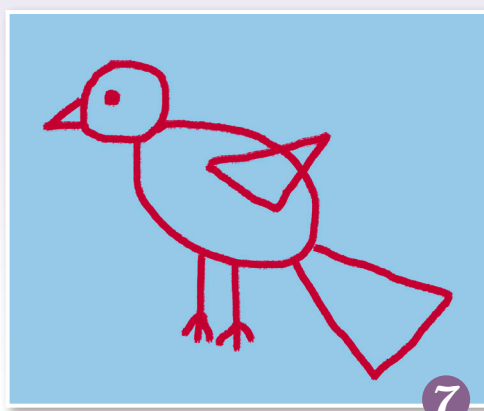
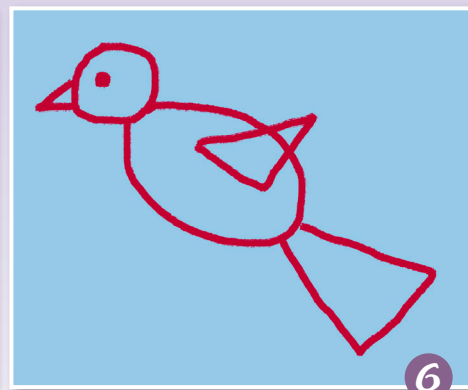
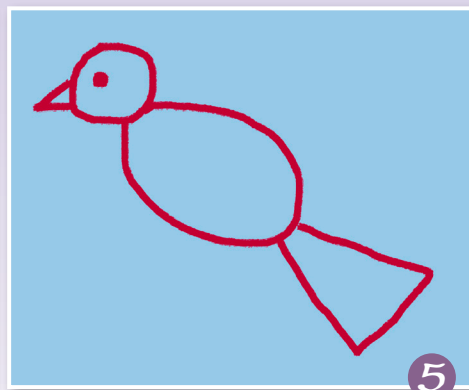
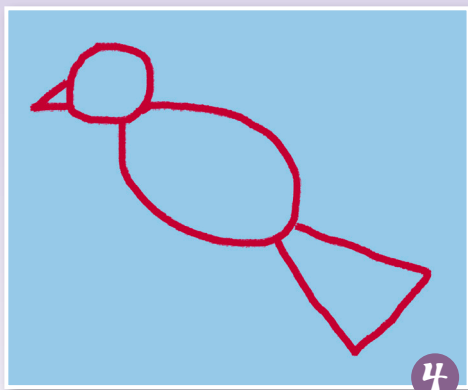
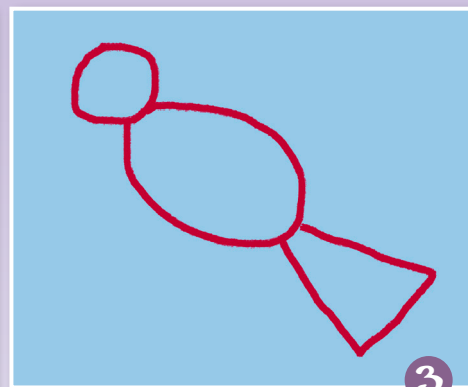
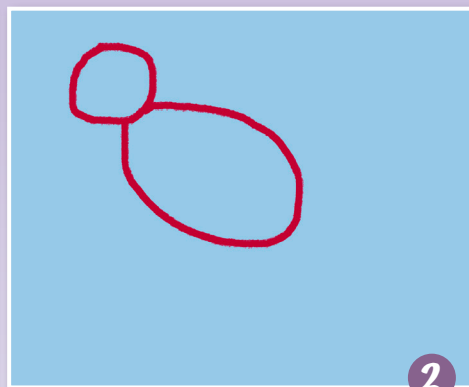
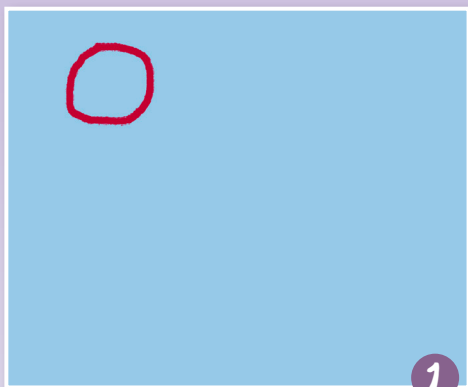
Sharon's Cartoon Trees:





Project 1: Step-by-Step Bird Drawing

1. Start by drawing a circle for the head.
2. Draw an oval for the body.
3. Then add a triangle to the body for the tail.
4. Add a triangle to the head for the beak.
5. Draw a small circle on the head for the eye.
6. Add a triangle to the body for the bird wing.
7. Draw an upside down "Y" for your legs. Add another line to finish the feet.
8. Add the crest to the top of the head by drawing a small triangle.



Project 1: Finished Artwork (Summer)

Sharon



Ramsey • Age 4



Cheyen • Age 8

Project 1: Finished Artwork (Fall)

Sharon



Ramsey • Age 4



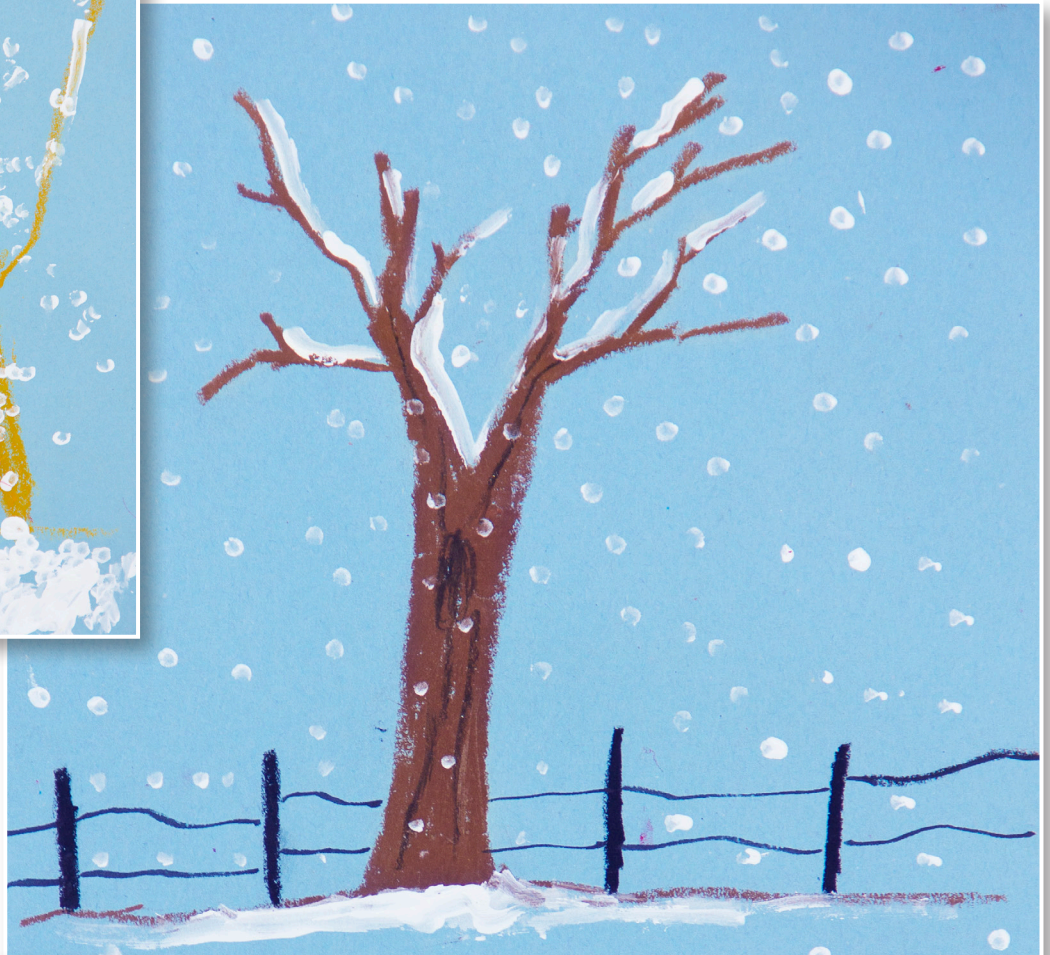
Cheyenne • Age 8

Project 1: Finished Artwork (Winter)

Sharon



Ramsey • Age 4



Cheyen • Age 8

Project 2: Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 2: Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 2: Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 2: Students' Finished Artwork



Haven • Age 9



Cadence • Age 10

