

A landscape painting featuring a mountain range in the middle ground, bathed in the warm, golden light of a low sun. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the foreground is filled with dark, silhouetted trees and bushes. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Painting

the

EARTH

Essential Questions/Ideas

What is a painting?

Why paint nature?

Changes in nature - light, wind, seasons, etc.

What mediums best depict various aspects of nature?

Historical depictions/techniques for painting nature

Contemporary concepts - how else can nature be used in art?



RATIONALE

Why study and paint nature? Like the human form, nature is an extremely complex, yet readily available subject that, when studied artistically, greatly expands one's internal repertoire of imagery and beauty. Students can also enhance their artistic repertoire by studying and practicing techniques of historical landscape painting masters.

Studying nature can also be a highly meditative practice, as using one's senses to observe one's surroundings can relax the body and elevate the mind. In this harsh world of ever-increasing pace and pressure, students need to be able to recognize and take advantage of the natural wonders around them, no matter where they live. An inner sense of gratitude for and oneness with nature can be liberating for those who choose to take the time to appreciate it.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will formulate their own definition of what a painting is/can be.

Students will develop their own resolve to the question, “why paint nature?”

Students will observe, practice, and incorporate techniques of historical masters of nature painting.

Students will perform at least 3 meditations in/ of nature per week of the unit.

Students will comprehend and demonstrate the basic techniques of each painting medium (watercolor, acrylic, oil).

Students will create a final series of paintings depicting a change in nature (see pg. 9).

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Historical Masters - Lorrain, Gainsborough, Friedrich, Constable, Hokusai (+ Chinese/Japanese ink studies), Cole, Turner, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh

Recent/Contemporary landscape artists (including Wolf Kahn) - students research

Basic painting techniques - watercolor, acrylic, oil

ACTIVITIES

Study and recreate works of the masters in alternative painting mediums:

chalk/oil pastel

colored pencil

collage

ink

Research & present recent/contemporary landscape artists

Nature meditations - at least 3/week this Unit

Outdoor graphite/pencil sketches

Outdoor watercolor studies

Outdoor acrylic studies

Outdoor oil studies

Final project (see pg. 9)







FINAL PROJECT!

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Complete 2-4 same-size, same-material pieces in a painting medium of your choice (watercolor, acrylic, or oil). These pieces should each depict the same plant or natural landmark going through an observable change of your choice - different times of day/lighting situations, different types of weather, season transition, different plane of view, etc. Make sure to approve your thumbnails with me before starting to paint. Most of this project will be completed outside of class. You may want to take reference photographs for each piece just in case.