

Landscape and the Group of Seven: a Canadian Invention

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Morgan Grade 7

This unit of study introduced the art of the Group of Seven to the students while exploring the technique of collage and multi media in a piece of art.

Objectives

- continue to develop an understanding of the various ways artists acquire and transform ideas (feelings; experiences; social; cultural and political positions; etc.) into visual form
- generate ideas for art works and manipulate these ideas to achieve meaning and personal expression
- continue to determine and explore appropriate media, technology, forms and methods for visual expression
- develop co-ordination and skills for using appropriate tools, technology, materials and techniques
- purposefully use the elements of art and principles of design in their work
- continue to hone skills of observation and image-making in order to become more aware of the detailed information and stimuli in the visual environment
- continue to extend their understanding of the elements of art through exploration and analysis

- begin to understand the use of the principles of design in the work of others and increase the ways they use the principles in their visual art experiences
- apply their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design when discussing, analyzing, developing and reflecting on visual art works
- reflect on how the elements of art, principles of design, images and techniques used convey meaning in works of art
- Use the term focal point when discussing the work of the Group of Seven and their own work
- Use the concept of overlapping to create the illusion of perspective in their pieces of art.

Materials

Cardstock paper

Sewing Machine and coloured thread

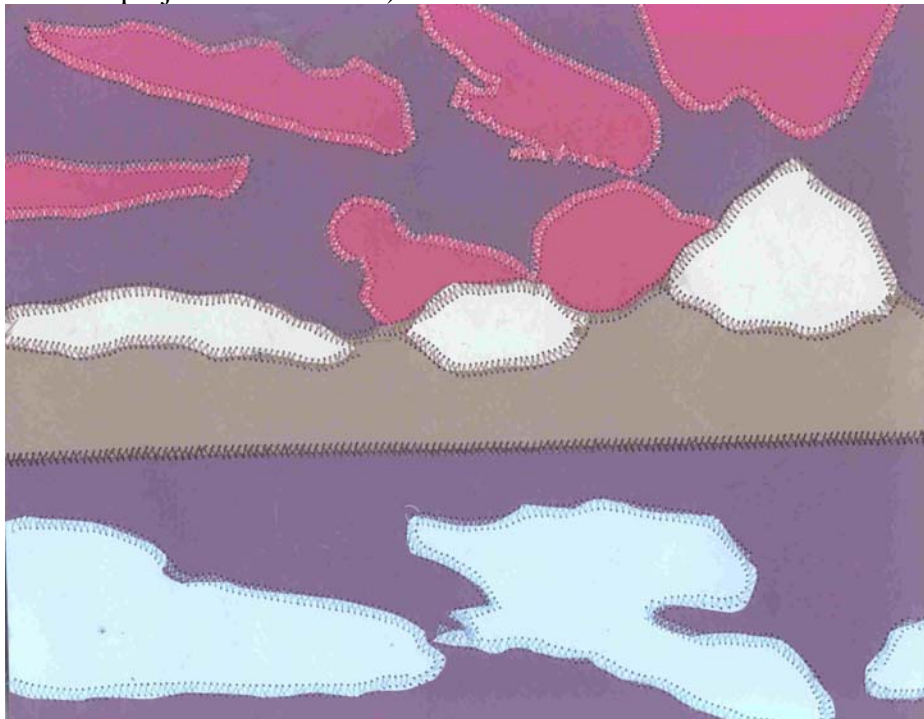
Glue Stick

Scissors

Images of the work by the Group of Seven

Calendar Images of landscapes

Textured paper (I use unfinished paintings and paintings children didn't like and keep them in a box for projects like this one)



Renelle Grade 5

Background Information

The Group of Seven

The story of the Group of Seven Artists began in the early 1900s when several Canadian Artists began noticing a similarity in style. Canadian Painters Tom Thomson, J.E.H. MacDonald, Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley, Frank Johnston and Franklin Carmichael were often believed to have socialized together through common interests and mutual employment. One particular venue, the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto, served as a common meeting place for the artists.

A. Y. Jackson later joined them around 1913. About the same time, Dr. James MacCallum and another artist by the name of Lawren S. Harris came into the picture and money was raised to build the historic Studio Building for Canadian Art in Toronto. During the spring of 1917, tragedy struck the group as Tom Thomson drowned in Algonquin Park's Canoe Lake. This tragedy shocked the Group, and questions were raised about the suspicious circumstances surrounding the drowning. The first World War had also interrupted the group's focus on art.

In 1920, the group put on their first exhibit and formerly called themselves the Group of Seven. The artists included were J.E.H. MacDonald, Franklin Carmichael, Frank Johnston, Arthur Lismer, Lawren S. Harris, Frederick Varley and A.Y. Jackson.

During the 1920s, the group established itself as uniquely Canadian in style. As their popularity grew, the group began travelling across Canada, a task not taken too lightly in those early days. They are historically recognized as the first group of European descent to capture the feel of the Arctic on canvas.

The Group's final joint exhibition was in December 1931. In 1932, MacDonald died and the group disbanded. In their wake rose a new group called the Canadian Group of Artists, of which Group of Seven members included painters Harris, Casson, Lismer, Jackson, and Carmichael. The C. G. P. held their first formal exhibit in November 1933.

The Canadian Group of Painters are historically recognized as having a significant impact on the Canadian Art movement and forever changed the style and spirit of Canadian Art, as did the Group of Seven.

Excerpt from: <http://www.groupofsevenart.com/history.html>

Another great link

<http://thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0003476>

Resources

Website Georges Vanier School: <http://www.scs.sk.ca/van/group%20of%207.html>



Claire Grade 6

Procedure

1. Introduce the work by the Group of Seven.
2. Look at their works and get the students to find the focal point in each piece. Look also for the divisions between layers of land.
3. Have the students draw a simplified rough sketch of their landscape, labeling colours and types of paper to be used (plain card stock or pre-painted paper)
4. Have students use a marker to create division between the various forms on their drawing. This colour will indicate what colour of thread they want to use.
5. The students now select the colour for their background. This colour would be the colour that is furthest away from the viewer.
6. Using cut out forms they work their way from the furthest away form to the closest. The closest forms overlap the furthest. The students do not try and cut around shapes and make them fit tightly together but rather overlap them.
7. Tell them to get the glue stick right to the edge of the paper when adding pieces or it will be difficult to sew the divisions because the paper will curl.
8. When the image is completely dry the teacher or students depending on the set up in your school sew along the edges of the shapes. The seams need not be perfect the lack of perfection is quite appealing. Not every seam needs to be sewn, it is quite attractive when they are not.
9. Title



Claire Grade 6