



1st Grade



4th Grade



4th Grade

Tiny Landscapes

Created by Jake Tedesco
February, 2021

Motivation

Grandma Moses painted landscapes, and all of her pictures tell a story in an uncomplicated folk art style. Using oil pastels on black paper, students will create a landscape using Grandma Moses' simple approach: repeating bright colors of tints and shades and creating the sense of space and distance by stacking, overlapping and diminishing size. Fine detail will be made by scratching away some of the oil pastel to reveal black lines(from the black paper). Grandma Moses' simple painting style, together with her stories about town life moved the viewer through the picture. But in this project students will create an experience for the viewer through presentation of a small size artwork.

Student Objectives

- Introduce students to the folk art of Grandma Moses.
- Learn how to create the sense of space in landscape artwork.
- Demonstrate skill in use of tools and process: oil pastels.

Historical and Cultural Connections

What is Folk Art?

Folk art was a term used during 1700s and 1800s to describe art made by ordinary working-class people. They had little formal artistic training and used only very simple artistic technique. The folk artist was focused on representing tradition and experiences rather than art that was "correct".



Anna Mary Robertson Moses, Grandma Moses (1860-1961) was always interested in art, however her upbringing and life were less than privileged, and she never had time to pursue her passion for art. She had ten children and to get by, she worked on farms and as a housekeeper. Grandma Moses only began her career at 67 by sewing embroidered pictures on cloth. But because of painful arthritis, she began painting at 70, switching hands.

Many of Grandma Moses' painting were landscapes and all told the story of the rural life she knew. Her style was simple. Although she did not use formal perspective, she did create the feeling of space and distance by recognizing that space appears to move from the front edge of the picture plane backward. And by repeating bright colors, tinting and shading, in addition to the detail of her story, Grandma Moses was able to move the viewers eye throughout the composition. The following is a description of her untrained style as it appears in her painting *Apple Butter Making*.

Description of style: *Apple Butter Making*

- The landscape is divided into three parts **foreground**, **middle ground**, and **background**. The part of the painting that appears nearer the viewer or in the front is the *foreground*.
- *Middle ground* and *background* are the parts of the picture that appear to be farther and farthest away.
- The line that defines the background represents the **horizon line** (where the sky and the earth seem to meet). Drawing the line high on the plane creates more land, drawn lower, more sky.
- Objects and people in the foreground are **largest**, painted low on the canvas and appear nearest.
- Objects and people in the background are **smallest**, have less detail, are painted high on the canvas, and appear furthest.
- **Overlapping** objects and people also show which is further as they appear to be in front or behind others.
- **Warmer colors** are used in the foreground, **cooler** in the middle ground and tinted in the background.
- The visual story is about the process of making apple butter.



Apple Butter Making, 1947

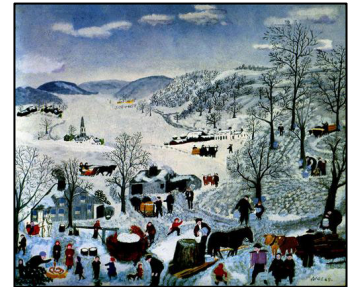
Her work has received much recognition and can be seen in museums around the world, as well as on greeting cards and merchandise globally. She appeared on television, magazine covers, even in a documentary about her life. She wrote an autobiography that received awards and was even given an honorary doctorate degree. She continued to paint until her death at the age of 101. In 2006, one of her paintings *Sugaring Off*, sold for \$1.2 million.



Mt. Nebo Hill, 1930 (Embroidery)



Bringing in the Maple Sugar, 1939



Sugaring Off, 1943

Vocabulary

Background: The part of the picture plane that seems to be farthest from the viewer.

Cool colors: Colors suggesting coolness: blue, green, and violet.

Depth: Feeling of space and distance in a picture.

Diminishing size: Objects decrease in size the farther away they are from the viewer.

Foreground: Part of a two-dimensional artwork that appears to be nearer the viewer or in the front.

Middle ground: Area of a two-dimensional work of art between foreground and background.

Overlapping: The placement of objects over one another in order to create the illusion of depth.

Perspective: A way an artist draws or paints on a flat surface so that there seems to be space and distance in the picture.

Plane: Something that is flat or level.

Shades: Color with black added to it.

Stacking: Places some objects higher on the picture plane.

Style: A set of characteristics of the art of a culture, a period, or school of art. It is the characteristic expression of an individual artist.

Tints: Color lightened with white added to it.

Warm colors: Colors suggesting warmth: red, yellow, and orange.

Supplies

Note: if black paper and oil pastels are not available substitute with white paper and crayons.

Black paper

Pencil (preferably no eraser)

Oil pastels, assorted colors

Toothpick

Visual Guide

Scissors

Glue stick

Set-up: Video Instruction

- Pencil
- Scissors and glue stick
- Printed copies:
 - AAYF project label to cut out
 - Visual Guide
- Set aside oil pastels and toothpick
- Access to artist's video

Step-by-Step:

1. Complete the AAYF project label.

- Cut out the label, following shape lines as a guide.
- Holding the black project paper horizontal, glue the label to the paper.
- Turn the paper over, holding it horizontal.
- Set scissors and glue aside, they are no longer needed.

2. Start artist's video: Pause the video whenever additional time is needed to complete a task.

Part 1: Pencil Sketch

- When using the pencil, sketch lightly:
 - The sketch is simply the plan and is not important to creating the artwork.
 - The plan may be changed when covered completely by the oil pastels.
 - No erasing during the sketch.

Begin drawing with the pencil as directed by the artist in the video using the visual guide as reference:

- Horizontal lines, defining the horizon line and sky, foreground, middle, and background.
- Additional horizontal lines for roads.
- Hills and a body of water in the background.
- Houses in the foreground, middle ground, and background. Remember, houses in the foreground are larger than those in the middle and houses in the middle ground are larger than houses in the background.
- Trees add in the same way as houses.
- Vertical lines slanted (diagonal) for additional roadways.
- Any additional landscape details.

2. When the drawing is complete, set the pencil and Visual Guide aside.

Part 2: Oil Pastels

- Oil pastels are made of wax and oil, while crayons are made only of wax. As a result oil pastels are much softer and can be layered like paint.
 - Since the pastels are soft, they don't require lots of pressure on the paper.
 - To mix colors on the paper, like mixing paint, don't press hard.
- Save the black oil pastel for last as it is the darkest of the colors in the box.

- If you drop a pastel, pick it up quickly since stepping on them make a gooey mess.
 - Keep the pastels in the box. When done with a color, put it back before taking another.
1. Select 2 cool colors.
 2. Lightly apply one color to the sky.
 3. Add the second by lightly applying the second color right on top of the first color. (Note: Some of the black paper may still be partially visible, but adding the second color on top should blend the two so that the black of the paper is no longer apparent).
 4. Color the remaining sections by changing color combinations and applying as directed. Consider warm colors for the foreground and warm-cool colors for the middle ground.
 5. Additional details:
 - Once everything is covered, other details can be added: trees, people, fences, etc.
 - Draw with a pastel right over the color already on the paper. (Note: Because of the blunt tip of the pastels, the artwork may look sloppy).

Part 3: Toothpick

Set oil pastels aside. A toothpick will be used as a tool to make thin black defining lines:

- Remember, toothpicks are sharp and are to be used only on the artwork.
- Use the toothpick to reveal fine lines of details, by gently scraping away the oil pastels with the tip.
- Do not use the toothpick to scrape away everything. Use it like a pen to outline and add detail to parts of the landscape.
- Use the toothpick to sign the artwork at the bottom corner.

Aesthetic Valuing

1. Did you blend the colors to make them warmer and cooler?
2. Did you draw larger objects in the foreground than those in the background?
3. Were colors in the foreground, warmer and brighter than in the background?
4. Did you create the sense of depth in making your landscape?

About Jake Tedesco, Presenting Artist

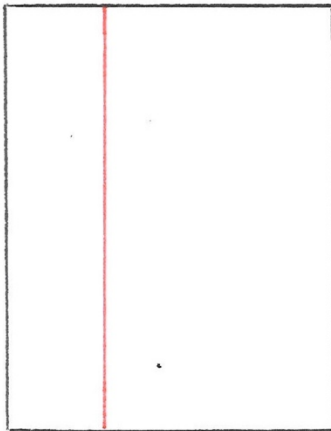
Jake Tedesco is an artist, instructor, and lifelong South Bay resident. Focusing on teaching his students to “see to draw”, his techniques are the continuation of a 30 year tradition started by his mother, Julia Tedesco, a well-known and respected member of the South Bay community.

Jake has been providing and instructing enrichment classes for Elementary Schools throughout the South Bay for the last 11 years. He currently instructs regular classes with his program, "Art with Jake Online". Aside from teaching, he is an illustrator, painter and graphic designer, working with a wide range of clients on a variety of projects. In his free time he enjoys time with his son and is forever creating something new.

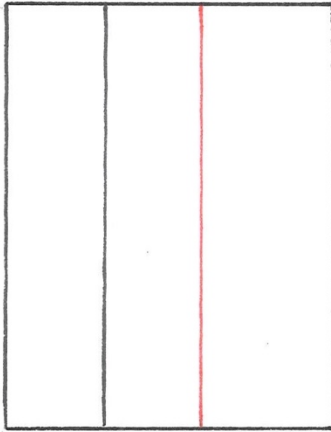
Art At Your Fingertips is a Palos Verdes Art Center school-based outreach program in partnership with the Palos Verdes Unified School District and the Palos Verdes Library District. Founded in 1976, this volunteer program annually brings quality visual arts education to almost 7,000 transitional kindergarten through fifth grade students at public and private schools on the Palos Verdes Peninsula as well as schools and organizations beyond the Peninsula.

We thank PTA, PTO, and Booster Club for their support.

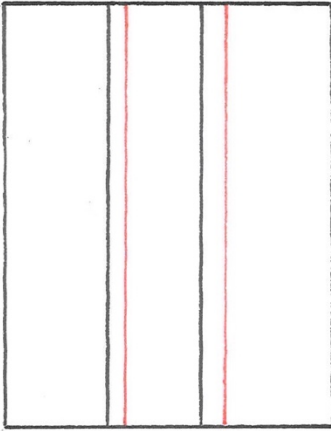
TINY LANDSCAPES – VISUAL GUIDE



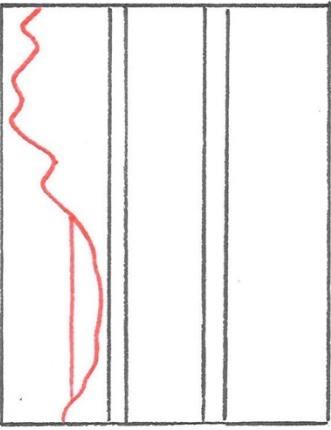
1. HORIZON LINE.



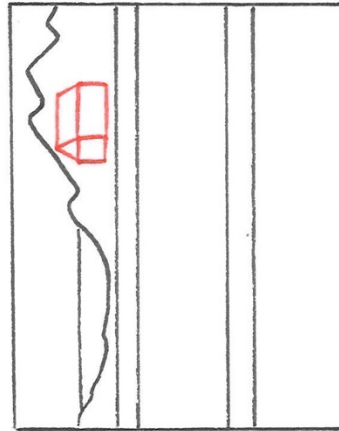
2. SEPARATE MIDDLEGROUND AND FOREGROUND.



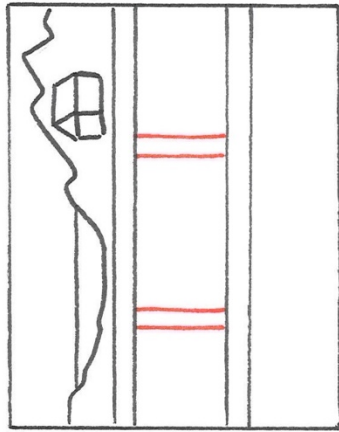
3. TURN LINES INTO ROADS.



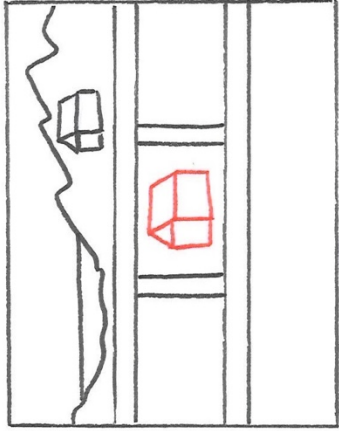
4. ADD MOUNTAINS AND LAKE TO BACKGROUND.



5. ADD A HOUSE IN THE BACKGROUND.



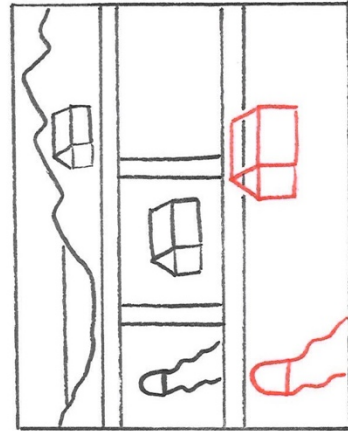
6. ADD VERTICAL ROADS.



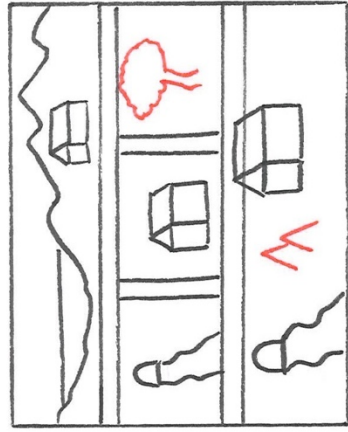
7. ADD ANOTHER HOUSE IN THE MIDDLEGROUND.



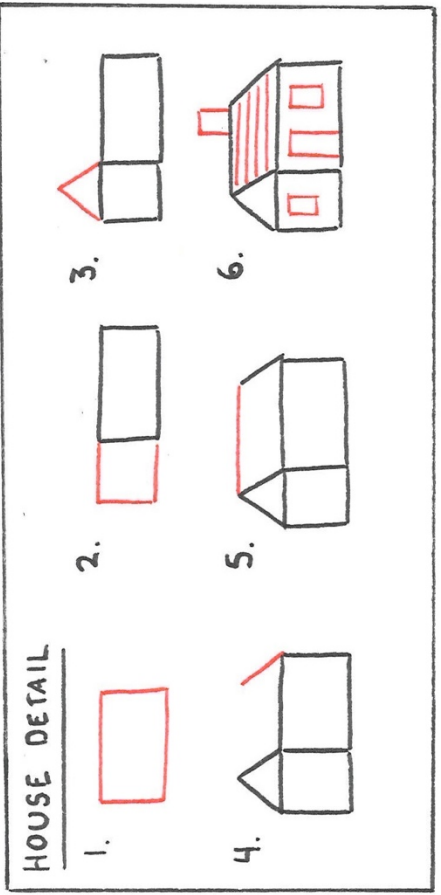
8. ADD A STREAM AND A BRIDGE.



9. CONTINUE YOUR STREAM + ADD A HOUSE IN THE FOREGROUND.



10. FINAL DETAILS - TREES, PEOPLE, ETC.



Tiny Landscapes: Inspired by the folk art of Grandma Moses

Explore and learn more about Grandma Moses, folk art and landscape art @the Palos Verdes Library District

Young Readers Section:

J Biographies MOSES, NIKOLA-LISA. The year with Grandma Moses

by W. Nikola-Lisa

A picture book introduction to the work of artist Grandma Moses.

J 811.52 FROST. A prayer in spring

by Robert Frost

The art of Grandma Moses is presented with Robert Frost's poem, "A prayer in spring".

J 758.1 BLIZZARD. Come look with me : exploring landscape art with children

by Gladys S. Blizzard

Presents a collection of landscape paintings by 12 different artists.

J 793.73 RAFFIN. Mitzi's world : seek and discover more than 150 details in 15 works of folk art

by Deborah Raffin

Follow along with a dog, Mitzi as she explores the landscapes created by folk artist Jane Wooster Scott.

J Biographies HUNTER, C. WHITEHEAD. Art from her heart : folk artist Clementine Hunter

by Kathy Whitehead

Get inspired with this picture book biography of folk artist Clementine Hunter.

J Picture TULLET. The countryside game

by Hervé Tullet

Have fun with this picture book featuring daytime and nighttime scenes of the same landscape.

E-books (Download on Hoopla):

Grandma Moses (<https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12222891>) by Megan Kopp

Learn about the life and art of Grandma Moses.

American Folk Art For Kids (<https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/11333954>)

by Richard Panchyk

Explore the history of American Folk Art along with ideas for creating your own art. Includes information about Grandma Moses.

Explore the Web:

Bennington Museum

(<https://benningtonmuseum.org/collections-overview/collection-highlights/grandma-moses/>) Check out the virtual gallery of Grandma Moses art.

Library services are available at all branches! Place holds, check out Chromebooks and hotspots, use our mobile printing service and more! Interior access is still unavailable until further notice. Check out our website at www.pvld.org for updates and to access our online services.