

# Skirting the Line



## GRADE LEVEL

6 – 8

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Focusing on a few of the intimate landscapes by Anne Neely, create your own grouping of textured abstract landscapes.

## GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Abstraction can be the process of breaking down ideas into simple shapes
- Expand on techniques to exhibit a variety of textures
- Art is a tool for collecting collecting components of a landscape

## ARTIST

Anne Neely | Jonesport, ME

A painter and printmaker, Neely draws inspiration from her curiosity about the world, combining scientific knowledge and imagination to answer and explore further. [anneneely.com](http://anneneely.com)

## INTRODUCTION

*Skirting the Line* presents the work of five contemporary painters whose work hovers on the line between abstraction and representation. Employing different techniques to create new forms of landscape, still life and the figure, each artist has a unique but cohesive visual language exploring the idea of what it means to portray a subject by looking at the interplay between abstraction and representation. Each reinvents painting today through energetic personal expression.

## LESSON

Experience the Center for Maine Contemporary Arts exhibit *Skirting the Line*. Identify where Anne Neely's work is located in our [virtual tour](#). Along the far side of the main gallery zoom in on the pair *Palace* and *Fodder* and then slide over to *Wish* and *Current*. Focusing on a few of the intimate landscapes, create your own grouping of textured abstract landscapes.

## CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What do you think you're looking at? What catches your eye in this work? What textures do you see? What colors are you noticing? How would you define abstract art? What type of landscape do you think is being represented?

\*Don't forget about the titles of the work, many times they relate or inspire the work. Did you know that fodder can be dry hay or feed?

## CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Share out your artwork and educate others about your process, whether it be with family or classmates, and share with us [@cmcanow](#).

## VOCABULARY

Foreground area closest to viewer; objects appear larger

Middle ground area in between fore- and background

Background area farthest away from viewer, objects appear small

Outline area around object formed by line

Sketch rough in process drawing

Composition a combination of artistic elements to form a whole

Abstract a form of artistic response to a physical reality, simplified marks to complex physical information

Texture how a surface feels

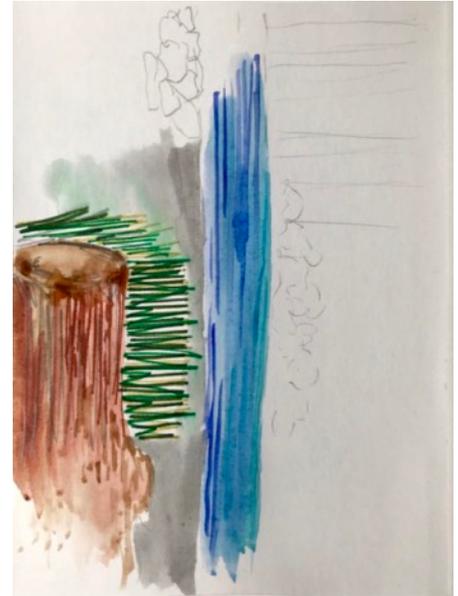
## MATERIALS

- 2 or more similar sized drawing/painting surfaces
- Pencil
- Collage paper - optional
- Paints & brushes
- pastels, colored pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1

Look outside your window, front door, or find a space outside that you know well. Where are you? What makes you enjoy this place? What are the objects in nature that surround you? What sounds do you hear? Choosing a small section of your landscape focus on the textures that are represented (i.e gravel = rough small jagged circles, grass = smooth vertical lines)



### STEP 2

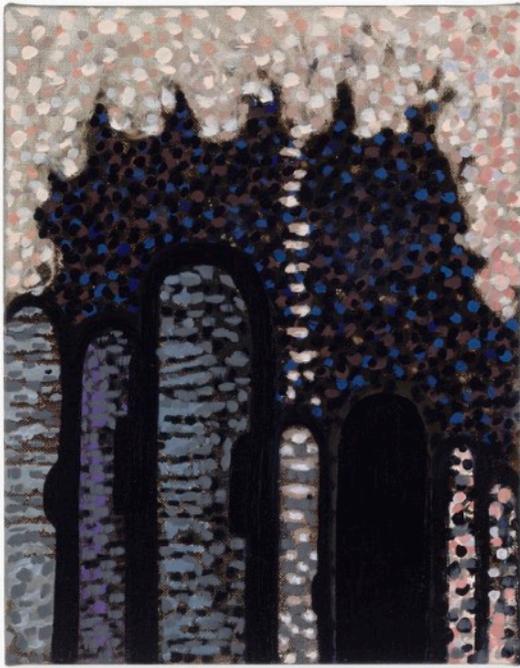
Using these textures begin to draw your landscape. Roughly sketch an outline of where the different objects are located within the composition.

### STEP 3

Incorporate colors using pastels, colored pencils, or paints to bring out the textures. If you look closely at Neely's work, she overlaps colors to create a unique palette, not shying away from bold hues and brush strokes. Try this out! Mix your own colors and layer materials.

### STEP 4

Repeat these steps to create another intimate landscape within your broader view. Similarly to Anne Neely's work you have captured a moment in nature that is subject to change overtime, try this again at a later time and see how your drawings change.



Anne Neely

Top Left: Palace , 2017 , 14 X 11", oil on linen

Top Right: Fodder, 2017 , 14 X 11", oil on linen

Bottom Left: Wish, 2017, 14 X 11", oil on linen

Bottom Right: Current, 2017, 14 X 11", oil on linen