

OPEN STUDIOS



GRADE LEVEL

All Ages

ARTISTS

Artist **Tracy Miller's** food fantasies take still life painting to another dimension. Her work incorporates bold colors and thick slices of cake, leading the viewer to search for more comforts.

Hannah Secord Wade's abstract landscapes containing food, object, and debris covered by snow, sand, or cloud lift the initial weight of the composition from afar. However, the use of layering her paint and brush stroke density encourages the viewer to imagine what hides beneath.

MATERIALS

- Printer paper or drawing surface
- pastels, markers, crayons, pencils (drawing tools)
- 2 - 5 inanimate objects
- table, clipboard, counter, floor - a hard surface to draw on

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

Using our Virtual Tour feature on the CMCA website, explore the work in our *Skirting The Line* exhibit. Noticing which imagery, color combinations or line work stands out to you and asking *why is that speaking to me?* Or if you're working with younger artists too, invite them talk about any observations they are making. Then, using a variety of objects create a still life adding oil pastels, paint sticks and drawing materials to explore ways of abstracting the elements within. Apply whimsical designs, layering objects, or altering perspective and composition in your creations.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

How can I place the 2-5 objects to create an interesting composition? Do I want to keep the objects realistically sized, or do I want to warp the appearance when drawing the contour? How much of the page do I want to use? Do I want to limit my color palette? *Sometimes less is more, begin by using only 3 objects and increase overtime

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

When your work is complete display it in or on the fridge, a room, wall, or desk. Make sure to snap a photo and share it with us @cmcanow or email mbogyo@cmcanow.org your creations.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Using a variety of objects create a still life adding oil pastels, paint sticks and drawing materials to explore ways of abstracting the elements within. Apply whimsical designs, layering objects, or altering perspective and composition in your creations.

VOCABULARY

Still Life a painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects, typically including fruit and flowers and objects contrasting with these in texture, such as fabrics, bowls and glassware.

Composition a combination of parts to form a whole

Outline drawing/sketch restricted to line without shading or modeling of form

Contour outline of an object

Negative space the empty space around objects

Contrast the use of opposing elements



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Collect objects to arrange a Still Life of your own. Try to find objects that vary in size, shape, texture and pattern. Construct a still life by placing your objects in relationship to one another. Decide if you want the objects to touch or be separated, there is no right answer.

STEP 2

Begin drawing the contour of those items as you see them on your paper. As the artist you have a choice of how much detail you include with each item.

STEP 3

Using the pastels, crayons, paint stick, or other drawing materials begin filling in your outlined objects. Layer the colors you are using, and try outlining in a contrasting color so that they stand out.

STEP 4

Use your imagination to fill in the negative space around these objects. Try drawing shapes of all one color or lines that intersect!

TIPS & TRICKS

Breakdown your objects into simple shapes when drawing (i.e. a lamp can be broken down into a trapezoid with a rectangular stem and circle as a base)



Hannah Secord Wade

Hearsst

2019

Acrylic on Canvas

60 X 48"



Tracy Miller

Twister

2019

Oil on Canvas

70 X 60"