INTRODUCTION

Dan Mills makes work that is full of observations about historic and current events. He conducts extensive research on topics such as current wars and conflicts, colonialism, and life expectancy by state, and creates paintings and works on paper that visualize data and information on these subjects.

Mills frequently uses maps as the space to explore these ideas. He began incorporating maps into his work in the early 1990s while researching the quincentennial of what is euphemistically referred to as The First Encounter. Since then, he has explored history and colonization in painting/collages on large roll-down school maps and in an atlas of future states, the loss of history through erasure and over-painting on maps, visualized data about current wars and conflicts in world maps, and data about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness on U.S. maps.

LESSON

Take a look at the work of Dan Mills in our Summer 2019 virtual tour found at cmcanow.org/virtual-tours/. Travel throughout the Bruce Brown Gallery and identify the bright colors used in his maps and different types of paint application used. Focusing on Dan Mills’ Contest Series, create an altered map that expresses movement or migration using a variety of painting processes.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Explain the importance of viewing, what is the job of the artist versus the job of the viewer? Closely observe a work on paper from the body of works titled Contest... on the left side wall. Discuss what you notice, what type of medium the artist used, and how the artist applied the paint. What kind of story is the artist trying to tell? Where is this place, do you see any places you know?

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Share your process and art work with us via email, Facebook or Instagram @cmcanow.
**VOCABULARY**

Hue/Color: when light strikes an object

Outline: area around an object shown by a continuous free hand line

Texture: how a surface feels expressed using a variety of lines and marks

Space: distance of area between, around, and within pieces of an artwork

Bird's Eye View: seeing from a point of view that is above or from a far distance away

Geography: study of earth and its people

**MATERIALS**

- Large paper surface
- Paint
- Combs - repurpose a recycled cardboard box or old utensil
- Brushes & hands for mark making
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons or other drawing tools

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**STEP 1**

Close your eyes and think of an outdoor space where you can play and run around. This place may be your backyard, your school playground, or a hike you take regularly. Imagine you are in the sky looking down onto this special place, what is the geography of this place, what shape does it form? Lay out a large piece of paper onto a flat surface and begin to draw the outline to create a map.

**STEP 2**

Grab your paints and begin to create a path as if you were walking through the space. Use different marks for different movements (i.e. running might be a continuous brushstroke while walking might be finger prints) while adding texture to your map.

**STEP 3**

Fill up your map, marking where you play, run and jump. Maybe you assign additional colors to represent the people or animals that joined in on the fun! Experiment with different types of mark making to apply to your maps.

**TIPS & TRICKS**

Try making this map right after you’ve gone on a hike, walk, or played outdoors drawing from fresh experiences!
Left:
Contest - India and Surrounds (with nationalist colors and including colonial incursions and excursions since 1878), 2018
acrylic, watercolor, and ink on map laid down on paper
13 ¾ x 10 inches

Below:
Contest - South Africa (with nationalist colors directed towards the countries people migrated from), 2018
acrylic, watercolor, and ink on map laid down on paper
10 ¼ x 13 ¼ inches