



LESSON OVERVIEW

Claire Sherman (born 1981) is an American painter who creates largescale paintings of natural landscapes and their details. Exploring local landscapes, students will create watercolor paintings focusing on mark making and color.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Claire Sherman and her artwork
- Explore brushstrokes & mark making
- Create a painting of a local landscape
- Practice making dynamic compositions

SUPPLIES

- Watercolor pencils
- Watercolor paper
- Brushes
- Images of local landscapes
- Pencils.
- Water cups
- Paper Towel
- Images of Claire Sherman's art

CLAIRE SHERMAN







Claire Sherman (born 1981) is an American painter currently living and working in New York Clty. Sherman grew up in Oberlin, Ohio and from a young age was interested in drawing, and took classes at her local art museum. She continued her studies of painting in college, where she decided she wanted to be a professional artist. Her main body of work shows landscape paintings with oil on canvas. At first her paintings used found imagery like postcards and pictures from travel books. Then she started working from photographs from her own travels visiting locations ranging from Big Bend, TX, Craters of the Moon, ID, Iceland, Zion, UT, to Death Valley, CA, among many many others. Sherman is interested in the beauty of the natural world while she paints ice glaciers, ominous islands, rocky terrain and foliage and tree bark.





LESSON PLAN

- 1. Show images of paintings by Claire Sherman and share her biography. Her paintings are often large in scale and are created with oil paint.
 - What is unique about how she paints the landscape?
 - List the elements that you recognize.
- What is her point of view? Where is the viewer looking? (possibly compare her landscapes to more traditional ones)
 - What do you notice about her brushstrokes or the texture of her paintings?
 - What colors does she use?
- 2. Take a closer look at the way Claire choses a composition. Working from images of local landscapes, demonstrate how to crop or focus in on part of the picture to decide on a composition. Discuss how texture and details are more important to Claire Sherman than showing the entire place in her landscape painting.
- 3. Now observe the texture of Claire Shermans paintings. Notice the layers of brushstrokes and colors. On a scrap of watercolor paper practice layering lines of color with the watercolor pencils. Then add water and use the brush to add more marks.
- 4. Ask students to notice what colors they are using Talk about 'local color', for example a tree trunk is brown, grass is green. Push students to look for all of the colors that they see within a leaf or bark. Use the example of how snow can look blue in a shadow.
- 5. On their final paper students can draw out the composition with a pencil using their cropped images. Then, creating repetitive marks with the watercolor pencils, fill their landscape with color. Finally, add water and use the brush to add more marks.
- 6. Talk about how these landscapes look, ask students:
 - How are these different from other drawings of nature you have made?
 - What did you learn?

EVA+: Draw a favorite place from memory. Think about what it feels like to be there.











KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:

Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (3rd Grade).

VA:Cn10.1.3a:

Develop a work of art based on observations of surroundings.

VA:Cr2.3.5a:

Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

VA:Cr3.1.3a:

Elaborate visual information by adding details in an artwork to enhance emerging meaning

STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:

Observe: Learning to attend to visual contexts more closely than ordinary "looking" requires, and thereby to see things that otherwise might not be seen.



Click on links to learn more.

- https://vimeo.com/333770807
- https://www.dcmooregallery.com/artists/claire-sherman
- https://hyperallergic.com/107612/artists-pick-artists-claire-sherman/
- https://www.clairesherman.com/



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