

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

Art to Go: It's a Matter of Perspective

Activity Goal:

To create an artistic representation of winter trees, connecting themes of nature, conservation, and importance of trees in the environment. Creating Depth using overlapping lines and forms, change in scale and atmospheric perspective.

Vocabulary:

Line: is an element of art defined by a point moving in space

Form: the elements of shapes that make up a work

Scale: the overall physical size of an artwork or shape in an artwork

Atmospheric Perspective: method of creating the illusion of depth in an artwork by changing the intensity of color, level of detail, or clarity of line – the farther away an object is the less intense the color and the less detail the viewer experiences.



Supplies:

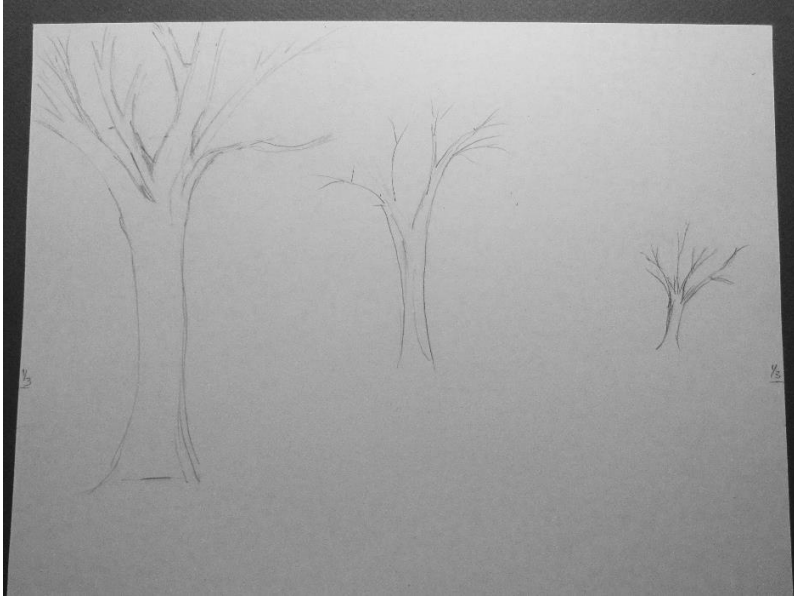
- Textured Drawing or Watercolor paper
- Wax Crayon or Pencils
- Chalk Pastels, Markers (water base) or Watercolor
- Pencil and eraser

Supply Notes:

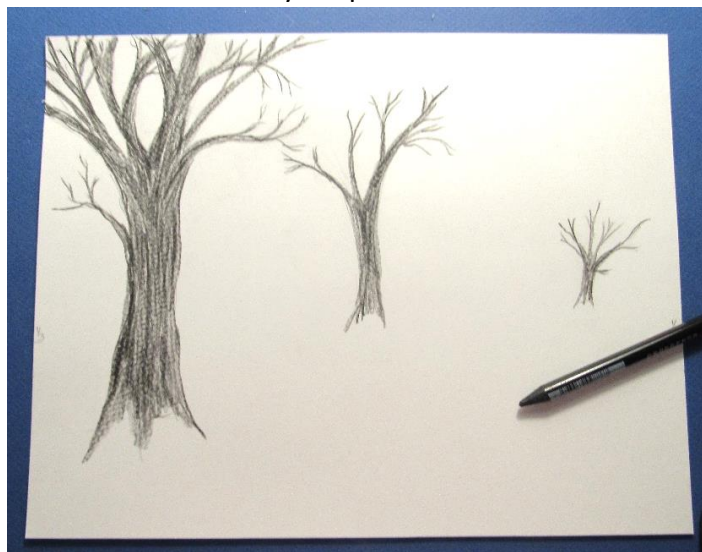
- Depending on how wet your medium will make your paper determines the weight of paper needed. It is not recommended to use a copier paper with watercolor.

Step by Step Instructions:

1. Using a pencil, make light marks at the about a third of the way from the bottom of your drawing paper.
2. Decide where your closest tree will be in your composition, then the next closest and finally the farthest away. Using the pencil mark the top and bottom of each tree with a small light line.



3. Using a wax crayon or colored pencil sketch in your tree trunks and larger branches.
 - a. Remember: The farther away the tree the smaller it will be in your drawing and the less detail it will have in the upper branches.
4. Fill in the entire trunk and large branches.
 - a. Remember if you are using watercolors any white space in you tree trunk or branches will absorb your paint color.

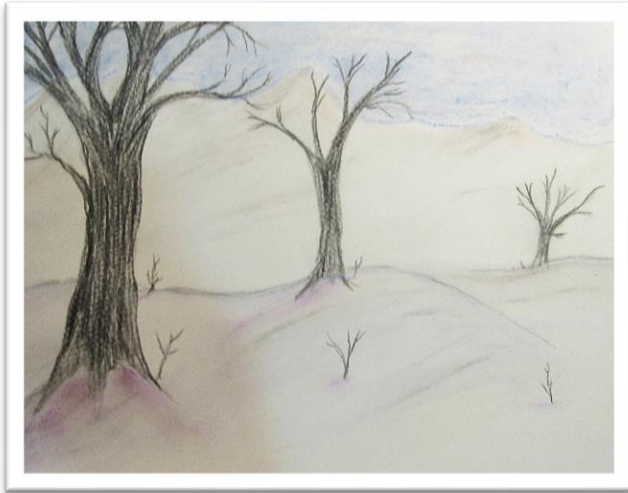




5. Using the marks on the sides of the page as a guide and a pencil lightly draw in overlapping curves to create hills. The hill shapes should naturally pass under and behind the trees to create a horizon line.
6. Repeat step five to create a distant horizon line of mountains about 1/3 of the way from the top of your page.
7. Fill in the portion of your picture that is the sky.
 - a. If you are using chalk pastel be sure to blend the color by rubbing the surface with your finger.
 - b. If you are using watercolor. Wet the edge of your mountains with water prior to adding color. This will help blend and soften the line where the sky and mountains meet.



8. Next fill your mountain space with color.
 - a. Decide where the light in your picture is coming from. Make one side of each mountain peak shadowed by using a darker color.
9. Add shadows to your hills by filling in heavy shadow at the base of each tree, and some gently curved lines of shadows to suggest additional curves.



10. Finally add a few twigs or bushes sticking out to the snow. Remember to give these little plants a tiny shadow to match.

Notes:

- Remember every tree will have its own character and each artist will see the colors of winter differently.
- If you are using watercolor, it is recommended that you test the color on your brush on a scrap paper first to be sure it is not too light or too dark.
- If your artist is interested in drawing using computer graphics, a similar effect can be made using clip art and shapes in Microsoft Word or Publisher. The sky is a blue textured box, the trees as simple clipart inserted from the creative commons, and the shadows and bushes are made with the scribble shape and color change. (See example below)

