

# Table of Contents

## Introduction

How to Use This Book .....	4
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## Lessons

<b>1. Color Magic</b>	
Color Mixing .....	6
<b>2. Notable Neutrals</b>	
Neutral Tones and Function .....	8
<b>3. The Shape of Things</b>	
Understanding Basic Shapes .....	10
<b>4. Line Design</b>	
Importance of Lines .....	12
<b>5. Veggie Values</b>	
Shading to Achieve Depth .....	14
<b>6. Itty-Bitty Animal Infants</b>	
Techniques for Using Textures .....	16
<b>7. The Case for Space</b>	
Balance in the Picture Plane .....	18
<b>8. Meltdown Marvels</b>	
Melted Crayon Textures .....	20
<b>9. Perspective Objective</b>	
Concept of Distance .....	22
<b>10. Adapting to Overlapping</b>	
Creating Depth .....	24
<b>11. Slitherin' Snakes and Other Slinky Creatures</b>	
Three-Dimensional Design .....	26
<b>12. Smitten by Kittens</b>	
Establishing a Focal Point .....	28
<b>13. Eerie Eskimo Masks</b>	
Exploring Eskimo Art and Culture .....	30
<b>14. Patriotic You with Red, White, and Blue!</b>	
Respect for American Symbols .....	32
<b>15. Awesome Animal Art</b>	
Drawing Animals in Their Habitats .....	34
<b>16. "Tree-rific" Landscapes</b>	
Drawing Landscapes .....	36
<b>17. Stay Still, Life!</b>	
Creating Still-Life Pictures .....	38
<b>18. A Creative Twist to Crayon Resist</b>	
Experimenting with Crayon Resist Techniques .....	40

# Table of Contents *(cont.)*

<b>19. Arty Animal Collage</b>	
Introducing Collage . . . . .	42
<b>20. Woven Wonders</b>	
Learning to Weave . . . . .	44
<b>21. Discover a Way to Sculpt Clay</b>	
Three-Dimensional Clay Projects . . . . .	46
<b>22. Hands-On Painting</b>	
Fun with Finger Paints . . . . .	48
<b>23. Exploring a Captivating Culture</b>	
Native American Art . . . . .	50
<b>24. Plunge in with a Sponge</b>	
Texture with Sponge Painting . . . . .	52
<b>25. What Lives in a Pond?</b>	
Making a Diorama . . . . .	54
<b>26. Stencil and Sponge Pictures</b>	
Art of Stenciling . . . . .	56
<b>27. Mosaic Medley</b>	
Making Mosaics . . . . .	58
<b>28. Wild Weather</b>	
Combining Art and Science . . . . .	60
<b>29. It's a Wrap!</b>	
Making Gift Wrap . . . . .	62
<b>30. Positive and Negative Critters</b>	
Contrast and Symmetry . . . . .	64
<b>31. Monoprint Monsters</b>	
Type of Printing Process . . . . .	66
<b>32. Lots and Lots of Robots</b>	
Junk Sculpture . . . . .	68
<b>33. Tackling Turkey Day . . . . .</b>	70
<b>34. Crafty Christmas Creations . . . . .</b>	72
<b>35. Have a Heart! . . . . .</b>	74
<b>36. Presents for Parents . . . . .</b>	76
<b>Management</b>	
Art Lesson—Generic Form . . . . .	78
Art Sources . . . . .	80



## Purpose of the Lesson

to introduce the concept of simple perspective to the students

## Art History

Charles Demuth (1883–1935) was born in Pennsylvania. He is well known for his still lifes and flower arrangements. His picture “Figure Five in Gold” helps the viewer travel in depth into the picture by showing the same object smaller and smaller within the picture’s plane.

## Materials

- 12" x 18" (31 cm x 46 cm) white drawing paper
- pencil
- soy crayons

## Variations

- colored construction paper
- paste
- watercolor paints
- scissors
- ruler
- colored markers
- old magazines
- 9" x 12" (23 cm x 31 cm) drawing paper

## Procedure

Practice drawing a clown holding balloons. The objects toward the back of a picture will appear smaller, and those in the foreground will appear larger. When you are finished with your drawing, color it brightly with soy crayons. To make the balloons appear three-dimensional, make the shading and any words, numbers, or

symbols, on the balloons follow the curves of the balloons.

## Assignment Choices

*Teacher’s Note:* For choice #1, show students how to draw the depth of a room on the chalkboard. For choices #2 and #3, explain what a vanishing point is. Show magazine pictures of landscapes with roads or pathways disappearing in the center of the picture or take the students on a short walk and point out how the roads and sidewalks narrow and disappear in the distance.

1. On a 12" x 18" (31 cm x 46 cm) piece of white drawing paper, draw a picture of your own room or a room you would like to have. The furnishings may be construction paper cutouts, or you may draw them with markers. Add wallpaper, pictures, and other decorative touches.
2. On a 9" x 12" (23 cm x 31 cm) piece of drawing paper, draw a landscape of a road, pathway, or walk disappearing into the distance. Color the finished sketch with watercolors.
3. Look in magazines to find pictures with two vanishing points. Such a picture will have forms that are large in the middle and taper off on both sides. Then create your own picture with two vanishing points.

## Connection

Charles Demuth was an artist who liked to use one, and sometimes two, vanishing points. In his painting “Figure Five in Gold,” the objects are large in the foreground and become smaller in the background. Charles Demuth fools you into thinking that you are seeing deeply into the picture.

