

Marker Drawing: Van Gogh Landscape

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

Pentel Pocket Brush, Faber-Castell brush marker or Copic markers
Strathmore vellum Bristol paper, 9"x12",
sketchbook or sketch pad

Goal

Students learn how artists use sketchbooks and drawing to train their hand to use tools to capture the details that their eyes see. Van Gogh is well known for his textural paintings. His ink drawings are lovely and intriguing, too. The mark making is diverse. He demonstrates careful draftsmanship while describing objects. Ink is used with simplicity and economy while the white space left as important part of the composition.

How does his drawing relate to his paintings?

Preparation

In a sketchbook, students can create a number of small squares to test out some mark making to create tones and shading.

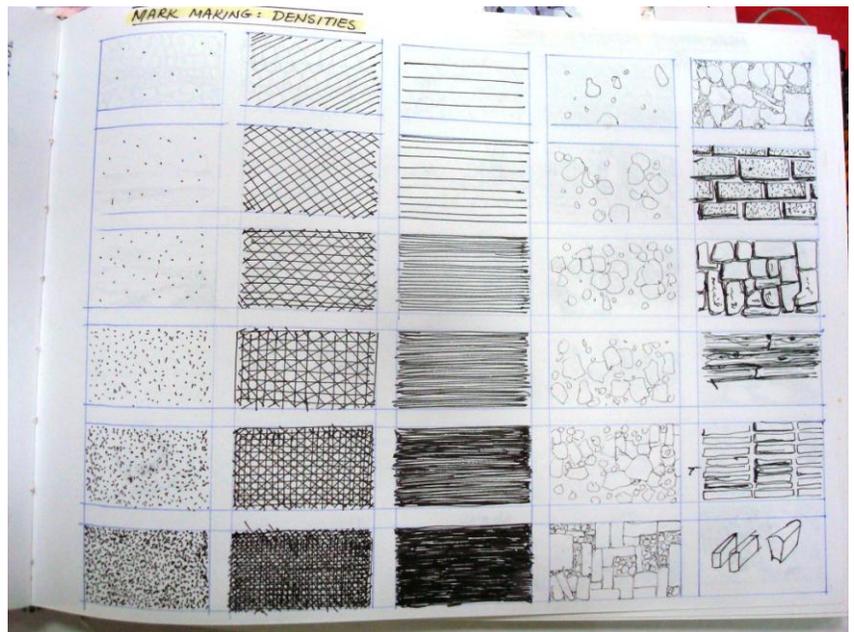
Procedure

Student can work from the landscape or from their photos. (A reference photo is provided on the next page.)

Only markers are used; no pencils.

Things to Consider

- Carefully sketch the basic composition.
- Consider how the image will expand across the page, fill the corners and spill out of the picture plane.
- What is the shape of the lightest part of the composition?
- Use the white space to contain and describe the mid-tone and dark areas.
- What is the darkest part of the composition? Concentrate more mark making in that area.
- Consider how different marks can build smaller shapes of lights, mid-tones and darks.



Marker Drawing: Van Gogh Landscape

by Kim Fjordbotten



Brush-tipped markers make it easy to create a variety of thick and thin lines just by adjusting the pressure. (Copic markers have replaceable nibs and can be refilled with ink.)

They also help students keep their drawing loose.



Even when students work from the same photograph, their images are individual in style.

Does the mark making or depiction of a scene relate somehow to personality?
Are artists able to help viewers see the world through their eyes?