“Black Enamel” Landscape Drawing
Inspired by artworks in the AGG’s permanent collection by Clark McDougall
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Canadians have always been aware of the environment around them, and landscape has been an important theme in Canadian art. Images of the landscape have not always looked the same, however. Over time, the landscape art of Canada has shown changes not only in the land itself but also in perception or ways of seeing. A painting tells as much about painters and their times as it does about the places painted.

Canadian artist Clark McDougall (1921–1980) was born in St. Thomas, Ontario. Inspired by rural towns like St. Thomas, he painted fields, farmhouses, barns, and store-lined streets, depicting the landscape and architecture of southern Ontario as well as scenes from his local community. When introduced to European art, McDougall was especially influenced by French Fauvist artists whose paintings featured bright, bold colours and simplified shapes. In Canada, he created his own approach to painting called the “black enamel” style, outlining his colourful forms with lines of thick black paint to create images that resembled antique enamel vases and bowls. Clark McDougall’s works are in numerous public collections in Canada and his archives of photographs, journals, and sketches are in the collection of the McIntosh Gallery at Western University.

Make your own “black enamel” landscape drawing inspired by Clark McDougall’s paintings!

Materials

- Black construction paper
- Pencil
- Chalk, chalk pastels, or crayons
- Craft glue
- Optional: Toothpick

Instructions

First, you must decide what you would like to draw. You could draw a city, street, or farm from a photograph, or perhaps the view from a window in your house. Use your imagination! If you are familiar with or would like to practice your one-point perspective drawing technique, try to draw a street with buildings and shops or a field with rows of trees that get smaller in the distance.

To begin, use a pencil to lightly draw the outline of your scene onto a piece of black construction paper. Outline everything, including shapes, shadows, and textures. Trace your pencil lines with a line of craft glue, using a toothpick to fill in holes or break air bubbles. The glue will preserve the black outlines around your shapes. Allow the glue to dry completely. Once the glue is dry, colour in the blank areas of your scene with chalk pastels or crayons. Chalk pastels will create the most vivid results.
How to Draw a Simple One-Point Perspective Landscape

To begin, draw a straight horizontal line across the page – this is the “horizon line.” Next, mark a point on the line – this is the “vanishing point.” To make a road, draw two straight lines from the vanishing point to the bottom edge of the page.

To make a building, draw a rectangle near the road. Add windows, doors, and other details. Lightly draw a straight line from each corner of the rectangle to the vanishing point – these are called “orthogonal lines.” Draw the orthogonal lines very lightly because you will erase most of these lines later. Trace solid lines over the orthogonal lines to make the top and bottom edges of the building. Connect the top edges of the building with a horizontal line and the side edges with a vertical line. Repeat this process to add more buildings to your scene. Remember to draw new orthogonal lines for each building.

To add hydro poles (or trees), draw a vertical line near the bottom of your page – this is the first pole. Lightly draw orthogonal lines from the top and bottom of this pole to the vanishing point. Draw more poles between the two orthogonal lines (they will get smaller as they get closer to the vanishing point). Connect the hydro poles by drawing two lines from the first pole to the vanishing point, crossing each pole along the way.

When you are finished, erase the vanishing point and any remaining orthogonal lines.