blue line arts

LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURE WATERCOLOR PAINTING
GRADES 9-12

Materials:
1. Watercolor Paints
2. Palette to mix colors
3. Watercolor Paper
4. Pencil
5. Paintbrushes
6. Cup of Water
7. 1 Paper Towel
8. Masking Tape

Art Kits are also available for purchase from Blue Line Arts

Instructions:
1. **Set up your workstation**
   Begin by setting up your watercolor painting workstation. Lay your watercolor paper out in front of you, in the landscape format (horizontal) and the rest of your materials beside you.
2. **Contour/Outline**
   Use a pencil to create a light drawing of a landscape. Create three levels of ground: background (mountains, horizon, sky), middle ground (closer trees, fields, hills), and foreground (big open field). In your foreground, sketch out a building or other form of architecture (barn, lighthouse, home, etc). Use a reference photo of architecture if needed.
3. **Technique: Wet on Wet Wash**
   Wet the top of your paper (the sky in your landscape) using your paintbrush and clean water. Then, on top of the wet surface, apply the color paint of your choice. This is called a Wet on Wet Wash technique, where you paint with wet paints on top of wet paper. Your paint should spread and flow all across the wet surface. Use a paper towel to blot excess paint or to pick up paint to form cloud formations.
4. **Technique: Tonal Underpainting**
   Use a transparent wash of more water and less pigment to paint your underpainting. Begin with the background, using more water to create a transparent look. Moving onto the middle ground, use a little less water, increasing the landscape's opacity. Finally, in the foreground, use less

water and more paint, creating the illusion of the landscape becoming clearer as it gets nearer. Fill in the grounds with light washes, covering the surface of the paper. Let dry.

5. **Technique: Masking**
When your underpainting is dry, use your masking tape to make a border around your piece of architecture. To make sure the masking tape doesn't rip the painting underneath, make your tape less sticky by sticking and unsticking it on a piece of fabric or your clothes. When the tape is less sticky, use it to line the edges of the building. Use watercolors to fill in the building inside the tape, creating nice straight lines. Let dry and then remove the tape carefully.

6. **Technique: Glazing**
Let your painting dry before adding the final touches of glazing (sometimes called Overlaying Wash) When dry, use more opaque colors (less water and more pigment) to paint details onto the background, middleground, and foreground. Use a dry brush glazing technique to paint the details of your architecture. You can add trees in the background, a pond in the middleground, or blades of grass in the foreground. Try glazing with different colors to create dimension in your mountains, sky, or fields.

7. **Let it dry**
Let your painting dry completely before displaying.

8. **Sign It**
Now that your painting is complete, make sure you sign your name on a front corner, or on the back with the date you completed your work.

9. **Artist Statement**
Now that you have signed your work it is ready to share. Create a 2-4 sentence statement about your painting. This could include: why you chose certain colors, or landscape features? Techniques and materials you used or anything you would like the viewer to know when looking at your painting.

10. **Congratulations!**
Your work of art is complete! Take a photo with your work and artist statement to share with classmates, teacher, and the Blue Line Arts Gallery: Info@bluelinearts.org

This watercolor project is inspired by the work [“Los Cerrazon” by Michael Dunlavey](#) at Blue Line Arts