



**BMO  
VAN GO**

## **2018/19 TEACHER'S RESOURCE GUIDE**

### **VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOP**



# VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOP

90 minutes

Prepared by: Maureen Procter

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The waters of the Pacific Coast are a wild environment teeming with life—from rivers with frolicking otters, wide-eyed harbour seals, tidal pools filled with small hermit crabs, starfish, clams, and sand dollars, to the open sea, hosting orca whales, dolphins, jelly-fish, squid, and the elusive octopus.

Bordered by the sea, Vancouver, the Lower Mainland, and surrounding islands, are home to this extraordinarily rich and varied range of flora and fauna.

In this workshop, students will have the opportunity to complete a realistic drawing or painting that depicts the marine life in this unique coastal environment.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### All students will learn

- Elements of composition for seascapes and landscapes;
- How to use simple geometric shapes to create sea creatures;
- How to use blending pens to create unique color combinations;
- How to use metallic paint to create water effects.

### Primary learning outcomes

- Establish and develop drawing skills using geometric shapes;
- To be the artist making individual choices in use of images;
- Learn new techniques using oil pastels and blending sticks;
- Brush and metallic paint techniques to create water and other effects;
- Encourage confidence in making completed art projects, and feeling proud of work accomplished.

### Intermediate learning outcomes

- Learn formal structure of landscape and seascapes;
- Further develop drawing skills, tone, value, and realistic renderings;
- Create varied colour combinations using blending sticks;
- Transfer small images to large format to understand scale and proportion;
- Remind students of the artist within themselves.

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## MEET THE INSTRUCTOR

**Maureen Procter** is a painter and educator. Born and raised in Vancouver, she attended the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design, and graduated from Emily Carr University. Maureen has taught drawing and painting at Arts Umbrella for 30 years. She's also maintained a strong focus on the Van Go outreach programs for the last 27 years.

## WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES



Students gather around the instructor for an introduction to theme and demonstration of the art project.

Next, students choose a visual reference of sea-life from the images provided and find a workspace on the floor.

Each workspace will have the following materials:

- 24 oil pastels
- blending stick
- t-shirt
- 9" x 12" paper
- 18" x 24" construction paper

Students will first do a test drawing of their chosen sea creature, in pencil on 9" x 12" paper. Once they have practiced their drawing, they will draw the creature on 18" x 24" construction paper.

Using oil pastels, students fill in the background to complete the seascape or landscape. Finally, students will add metallic paint to highlight elements of the drawing, like the water or sky.

After everyone has finished, all art materials are collected. Students may view their peer's art, and positive feedback or discussion is encouraged.

### Materials

- 24 oil pastels
- blending stick
- t-shirt
- 9" x 12" paper
- pencils
- erasers
- 18" x 24" construction paper
- metallic paint
- fine brushes



## EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES



### THE GREAT BLUE WHALE

If possible, plan a field trip to the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC. This museum is home to a skeleton of the largest creature on earth: The Great Blue Whale.

The whale's skeleton is suspended from the ceiling at the museum—a large glass structure that allows the skeleton to be viewed from two sides of the building. Maureen Procter has taken many classes to see this whale, and the students may sit outside to draw the skeleton. There's no charge to do so.

#### Activity steps

Take a 12" x 24" piece of paper and fold into four equal parts. Apply the workshop lesson of using geometrics shape to draw the head, tail, ribcage, vertebrae, and tail. This exercise helps students to understand scale and proportion. Next, draw the skeleton using oil pastels. Finally, add a watercolour background to create a home for Big Blue.

#### Materials

- oil pastels
- 12" x 24" paper
- watercolour paints for background
- brushes



## RESOURCES

### Books

Miettunen, Anita. *Big Blue Forever: The Story of Canada's Largest Blue Whale Skeleton*, Red Deer Press.

### Websites

Vancouver Aquarium: [vanaqua.org](http://vanaqua.org)

National Geographic:  
[nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/b/blue-whale](http://nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/b/blue-whale)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: [dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profil/b/blue-whale-pac-rorqual-bleu-eng.html](http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profil/b/blue-whale-pac-rorqual-bleu-eng.html)

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Perspective

A viewpoint used in landscape

### Proportion

Balance of form

### Symmetry

Equal on both sides

### Blending Sticks

Used to blend

### Composition

Arrangement of images on art

### Geometric Shapes

Circle, square, and triangle

### Migration

To travel from one area to another

### Pod

A family whales (a pod of orcas)

## ADDITIONAL READING

Kraulis, JA. *Wild Pacific Coast*, Book Sales.

Smith, Miranda. *Eyewitness Living Earth*, DK Publishing, Eyewitness series.

Froom, Barbara. *The Turtles of Canada*, McClelland & Stewart.

Kalman, Bobbie. *Sea Otters*, Crabtree Publishing Company.

Lambert, David, *Mammals*, DK Publishing.

Bingham, Caroline. *Whales and Dolphins*, DK Publishing.

Steiner, Barbara. *Whale Brother*, Walker & Co.

Sheldon, Dyan. *The Whales' Song*, Penguin Random House.

National Geographic Society. *Whales Dolphins and Porpoises*.

Helman, Andrea. *Northwest Animal Babies*, Little Bigfoot.

Meredith, Susan. *Undersea Life to Colour*. Usborne Publishing Ltd.

Bash, Barbara. *Ancient Ones*, San Francisco: Sierra Club Books for Children.

