

Dreamscape: Who do I dream to be?

Watercolor, Collage

This lesson is inspired by surrealism and Montana artist Bayla Arietta who also incorporates surrealism into her illustrations. Students will explore the enduring idea of “dreams.” Using the medium of watercolor and water resist techniques, students will create a surreal landscape or dreamscape. After painting their scene, students will draw and cut out imagery and symbols which reflect themselves in the future. Students might ask themselves, what is important to them? What do you they want to be when they grow up? What sort things do they wish the world to have?

Length: 1 hour

Objectives:

1. Students will understand surrealism
2. Students will create watercolor landscapes using various watercolor techniques, color, and texture.
3. Students will learn what symbols are and how they can create their own.
4. Students will respond to their own artwork, others, and the artists in the exhibit

MT Art Standards

- Content Standard 1—Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts.
- Content Standard 2—Students apply and describe the concepts, structures, and processes in the Arts.
- Content Standard 3—Students develop and refine arts skills and techniques to express ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning
- Content Standard 4—Students analyze characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.



Materials:

- water color paint
- water color paper
- salt
- rubbing alcohol
- paper towels
- drawing paper
- scissors
- markers, crayons, and/or color pencils
- glue

Vocabulary:

- Surrealism
- Symbols
- dreamscape

Artist Reference:

- Salvador Dali

MT Artist Reference:

- Bonnie Lambert (Helena, MT)
- Bayla Ariett (Missoula, MT)

Process

1. Discussion. What is surrealism? Who is famous for surrealism? Do artists still use surrealism?

- Surrealism (Webster definition): a 20th-century art form in which an artist or writer combines unrelated images or events in a very strange and dreamlike way
- Artist Salvador Dali is best known for his painting of melting clocks called, The Persistence of Memory which was painted in 1931.
- Many artists use surrealism in contemporary art. Ron Galsavles, a painter, creates landscapes that include every day scenes mixed with nonfiction and dreamlike images.



Ron Galsavles, *the Sun Sets Sail*



Salvador Dali, *Persistence of Memory*

2. Symbols. A symbol is “a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.” Talk about some of the symbols we recognize such as a heart or a peace sign. Discuss Salvador Dali’s, *Persistence of Memory* and together point out some of the symbols he is using, here’s a great web resource <http://vsmart.com/persistence-memory-hidden-symbols/>. In this project, students will be creating symbols that describe what they want their own future selves to be or the world to have. Brainstorm five on a scrap piece of paper and set aside.

3. Watercolor. Take out your water color paper, paint, salt, rubbing alcohol, and paper towels. Demonstrate to students how the water color responds to salt, rubbing alcohol, and how you can “lift” paint off of your paper using paper towels. Students do not have to create anything representational. Just experiment!

4. Draw & Collage. While student’s water color paper dries, have students take out their drawing paper, pencils, markers, and/or colored pencils to draw the symbols they had written down earlier. These symbols will be cut out and pasted onto their watercolor dreamscape. They may choose to draw themselves, maybe even a future self. For example: them as an astronaut, teacher, fireman, etc.

5. Share & Reflection. After students have finished their paintings, glued their collage to the painting, everyone should walk around the room to see each other’s paintings. How different were each other’s ideas of the future? What did we have in common?

Rubric: 12 Points Possible Self-Assessment

	3	2	1	0 (Did not complete)	Notes
Idea Generation: Symbols & Self Portrait	I created at least 3 symbols that were important to myself. I thought of a creative way to put myself in the painting and it reflected my idea.	I created 3 or less symbols for my project, they were not important to myself. I included a portrait of myself in the drawing, but it did not reflect an idea.	I created drawings, but they were not important to myself. Not sure what symbols are. I did not include a portrait of myself in the painting.		
Application of Paint: Watercolor and Resist Techniques	I used only 3-4 colors to complete my painting and followed the directions. I thought a lot about color and I enjoyed creating a surrealist landscape using all 3 water resist techniques.	I used 3-4 colors to complete my painting. I did not think very much about color. I did enjoy creating a surrealist landscape and used all 3 water resist techniques.	I used all of the colors on the watercolor tray. It made more of a muddy grey, without many colors left. I didn't think about colors when I was applying them. I did not use all 3 water resist techniques.		
Effort:	I continued to work carefully and diligently until my project was complete or until the teacher let us know when it was time to clean up. I made sure to include all of my important ideas.	I continued to work until my project was complete. I did not include all of my important ideas.	I rushed through my painting to finish it as fast as possible.		
Reflection (Critique)	I looked at other students' artwork and noticed things that we had in common and things that were different. I shared my thoughts with the class. I cared to see to my classmates' artwork.	I looked at other students' artwork and noticed things that we had in common and that were different. I did not share my thoughts with the class. I cared to see my classmates' artwork.	I looked at the student's artwork, but did not notice things that were different or what we had in common. I didn't care very much to see my classmates' artwork.		