

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: 3rd Grade

Lesson Duration: 1 hour

Subjects: Art, Design, Biology

Apple Still Life Paintings Inspired by Yvonne Twining Humber

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY DESIGNED
BY THE MONA LINK PROGRAM



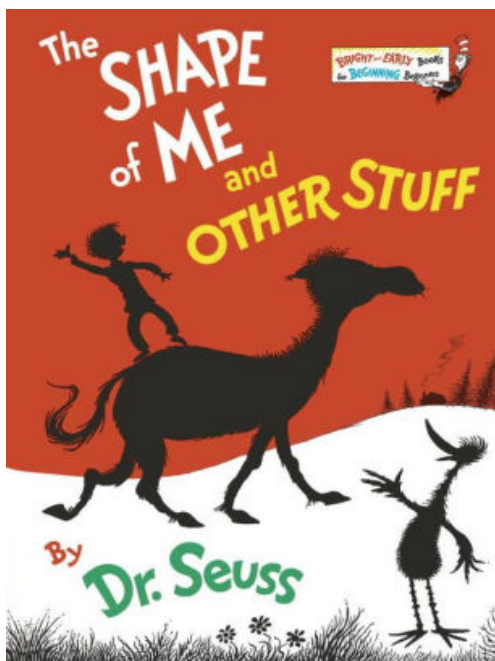
Sample drawing

Image credit: Lynn Prewitt

Description

In this lesson students will be introduced to Pacific Northwest artist Yvonne Twining Humber and the concept of a "still life" drawing.

Students will draw their own still life of an apple and utilize the observational skills they've learned throughout the lesson.



Materials

- Apples (for observation)
- Pencils
- Watercolor pencils or crayons
- Water cups
- Paint Brushes
- Erasers
- Biography of Yvonne Twining Humber & images of her work (included in this lesson)
- Watercolor paper
- *The Shape of Me and Other Stuff* by Dr. Seuss or this [read-aloud video](#) version

Instructions

1) Introduce the artist using the included "About the Artist" page and share examples of her work to explain the idea of a "still life." This is an excellent opportunity to practice VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) to facilitate an inquiry and observation based discussion about still life paintings.

- Full size images and a VTS appendix (with tips & resources) are included at the end of this lesson.

2) Introduce the art element of line by reading *The Shape of Me and Other Stuff* and discussing how lines define the shape of different objects.

3) Introduce the element of art called value. You can point out that lighter shades of color may show a highlight and darker shades may show shadow.

4) Allow students time to practice using their artist pencils. Demonstrate holding the pencil on its side and applying different amounts of pressure to change values. Demonstrate how to make different thicknesses of lines by holding the pencil at different angles.



Instructions (continued)

5) Demonstrate drawing an apple for students using the following steps.

Explain how drawings do not have to be perfect, or the same as anyone else's!

6) Set an apple on a white piece of paper on each student's desk. Show them how to start by using the pencil to draw the basic outline of their apple.

7) Describe where the light is coming from and demonstrate how they might use their watercolor pencils to show the highlights and shadows from their light source.

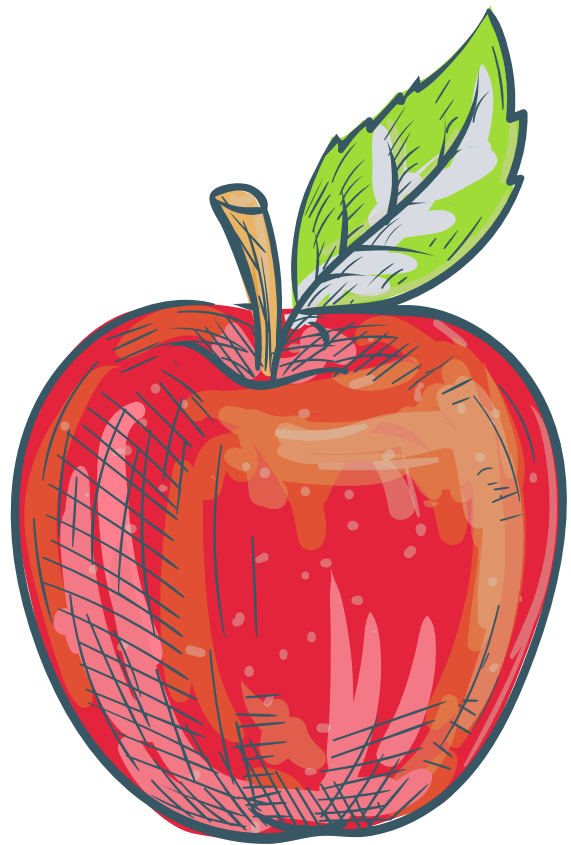
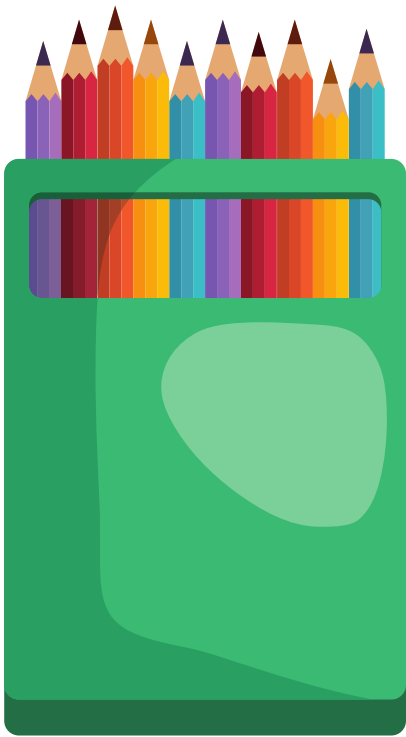
8) Once students have filled in their entire apple with watercolor pencil, they can dip their paintbrushes into water and blend the pencil together so that it becomes a painting.



Art Learning Concepts & Vocabulary

Art elements: line, shape, form, color, texture, space, value, highlight, shadow, light source.

Principles of design: balance, emphasis/dominance, proportion, movement, rhythm, repetition/pattern, variety, harmony, unity.



Reflection & Closer

Students can share their work (as a class or in pair & share). Ask students to share a challenge they faced or a question they still have about the project or the artist.

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

- **VA: Cr1.2.1** (Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art)
- **VA: Cr3.1.1** (Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art)
- **VA:Cr2.3.1** (Identify and classify uses of everyday objects through drawings, diagrams, sculptures, or other visual means)

About the Artist: Yvonne Twining Humber



Yvonne Twining Humber
Image credit: Malden Public Library

To learn more about
Yvonne Twining
Humber, the WPA and
her artworks, head here:
[Frye Art Museum](#)

Yvonne Twining Humber (1907-2004) was born in New York City. Humber completed formal art training and studies during her time in New York. During the Great Depression, she gained professional and financial independence as a painter for the Works Progress Administration in Boston. She earned several awards and public recognition during her time with the WPA.

Humber eventually moved to Seattle, Washington where she continued to paint. The artist even held a solo exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum in 1946. During her career, Yvonne faced several professional setbacks as she navigated the art world as a female artist. In the past several years there has been a renewed appreciation for the Humber and her incredible contributions to the art history of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.



Still Life with Potter Geranium by Yvonne Twining Humber
Image credit: AskART

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that...?
What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to VTS in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: <https://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators>



Still Life with Potter Geranium by Yvonne Twining Humber
Image credit: AskART



Iris by Yvonne Twining Humber
Image credit: Live Auctioneers