

ART & LANDSCAPE

THE LANDSCAPE AS A GENRE

HOW DO ARTISTS USE THE ENVIRONMENT AS A PALETTE

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE

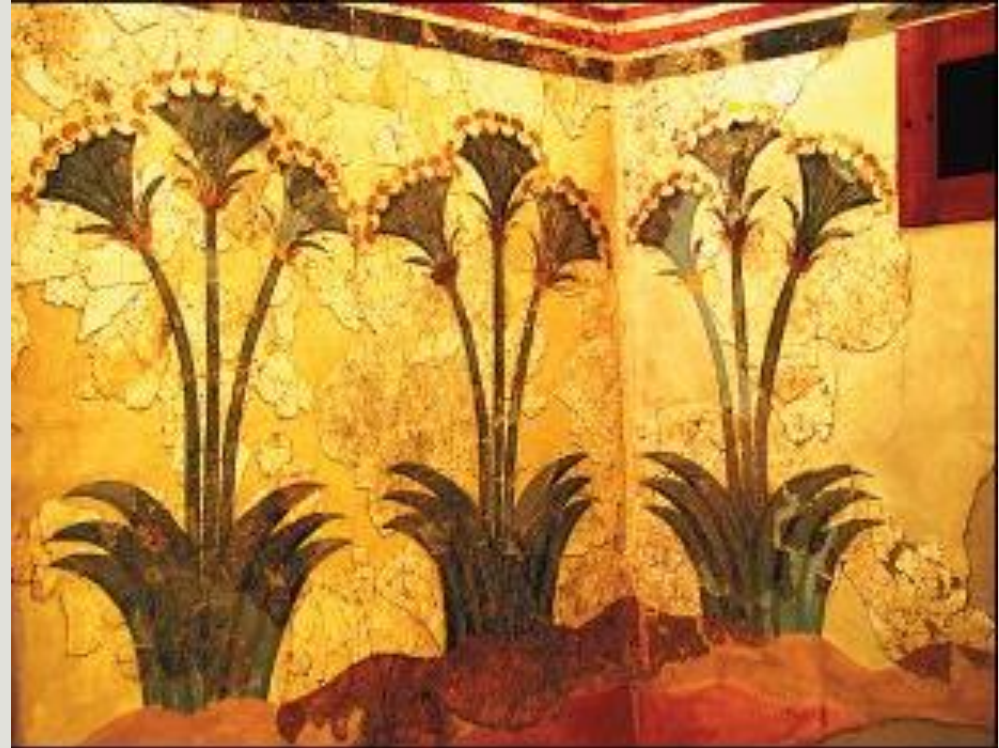
In the visual arts, the term 'landscape' - from the Dutch word 'landschap', a patch of ground - describes any painting or drawing whose "principal subject" is the portrayal of a scenic view. Such scenery encompasses meadows, hills, mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, forests, coastal views and seascapes. The view depicted may be that of a real place, or it may be an imaginary or idealized scene



Jacob van Ruisdael *Landscape with Windmills near Haarlem*, 1651

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE

The tradition of landscape painting was born from centuries of evolved painting styles, beginning with the tinted walls of the ancient Greeks. These walls were adorned with beautiful gardens and rolling hills. Landscape painting evolved to be the backdrop for religious stories. The Italian Renaissance in the sixteenth century revived the classical ideas, naturalistic elements like scenery, and landscape sparked a new interest in studying Nature and its importance.



Sea daffodils Fresco at Akrotiri.

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE



Italian Renaissance artists such used landscapes in their paintings to demonstrate the idea of the landscape as a vast terrain with deeply receding space. Artists began to depict the distant horizon and capture the palpable atmosphere that lies between the viewer and the far distance.

The landscape was often to add an atmosphere of drama – or to provide psychological clues. But the landscape was not the focus of the painting.

Virgin and Child in an Archway,
Petrus Christus,
about 1450–1455
Szépművészeti Múzeum,
Budapest



“Madonna on the Rocks” (1492)
by Leonardo da Vinci,
The National Gallery of London.

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE

Although Renaissance artists utilized the use of landscapes in their paintings, it was not until the 18th century, that the Academy recognized landscapes as historic and important. By this time, European artists had perfected the landscape – displaying an idealized, classical harmony where Nature was balanced and serene, evoking a classical simplicity. Landscapes were popular, growing in importance, and the Academy recognized the landscape painting as both a form (genre) and as an educational tool (documentation).



"Herdsman with Five Cows by a River" (1650) by Aelbert Cuyp, The National Gallery of London.

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: IMPRESSIONISM

The genre of landscape has evolved greatly over the last century. Both European and American schools of thought have influenced artists who use the landscape genre as part of their practice. For example, landscape was a very important genre in the **Impressionist** movement because of new technologies (packaged art tubes allowed artists to paint outdoors, invention of photography urged artists to capture the light and to paint *en plein air*).

During the **Impressionism period**, artists placed importance on direct observation, speed, and spontaneity as they tried to capture the look of changing weather, seasons, and times of day.



Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, French, 1796 - 1875, *Beach near Etretat*, c. 1872, oil on canvas, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection



Claude Monet, *Path in the Wheatfields at Pourville*, 1882.



Camille Pissarro, *Spring at Éragny*, 1900.

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: FAUVISM

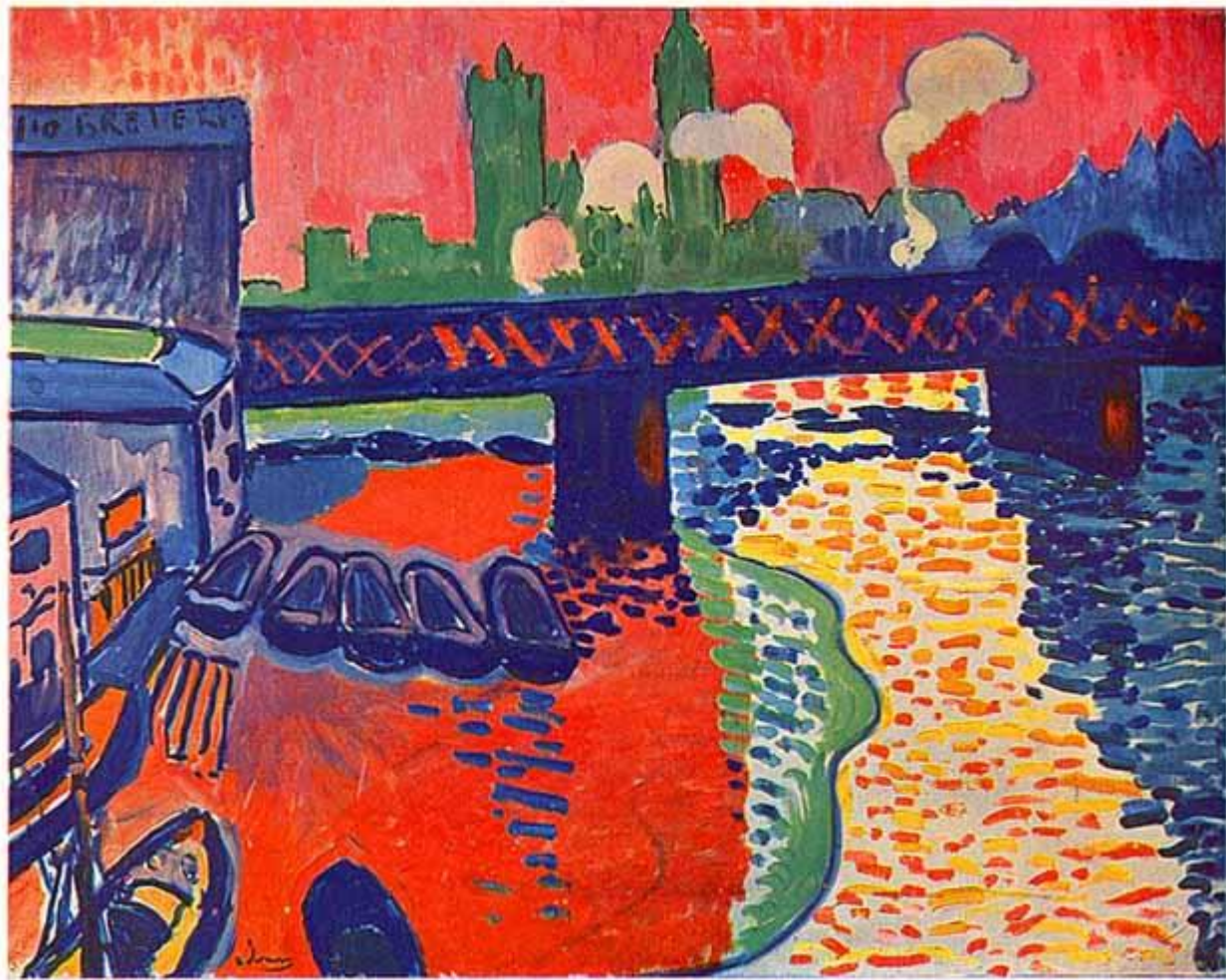
Artists who followed the styles of Fauvism, Cubism or Expressionism still contributed to the development of the landscape genre.

The **Fauvist** period (early 20th century) broke away from Post-Impressionism and were concerned, stylistically with bold, unnaturalistic colour, strong brushstrokes and a spontaneous, subjective response to nature.

Many of the artists experimenting in this style rejected traditional three-dimensional space and sought instead a new picture space defined by the movement of color plane.

Henri Matisse
Olive Trees at Collioure
1906 (?)
Oil on canvas
17 1/2 x 21 3/4 in. (44.5 x 55.2
cm)
Robert Lehman Collection, 1975





Andre Derain. 1906
Charing Cross Bridge, London



Georges Braque. 1906
View of L'Estaque

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: EXPRESSIONISM

Expressionism is a term that embraces an early 20th century style of art, music and literature that is charged with an emotional and spiritual vision of the world. Expressionism is associated with Northern Europe in general and Germany in particular.

These artists wanted to look inwards to discover a form of 'self-expression' that offered them an individual voice in a world that they perceived as both insecure and hostile. It was this more subjective search for a personal emotional truth. Artists used color to express their feelings about a subject, rather than to simply describe it.



ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER (1880-1938)
'Davos under Snow', 1923
(oil on canvas)



"Tannen vor weissem Haus/Fir Trees in Front of a White House," by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, oil on canvas, 1911



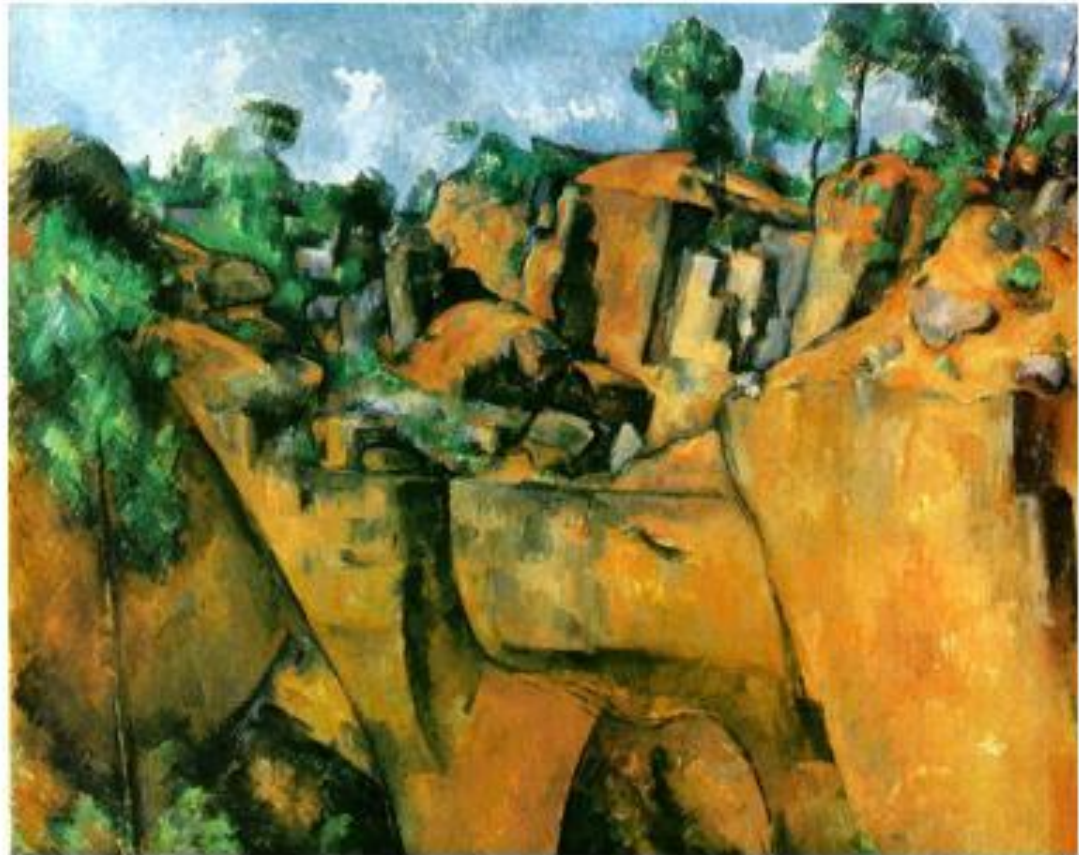
"Landschaft bei Dresden/Landscape Near Dresden," by Erich Heckel, oil on canvas, 1910

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: CUBISM

The **Cubist** movement saw artists abandoning perspective, which had been used to depict space since the Renaissance, and they also turned away from the realistic modeling of figures.

Cubism explored open form, piercing figures and objects by letting the space flow through them, blending background into foreground, and showing objects from various angles.

Some historians have argued that these innovations represent a response to the changing experience of space, movement, and time in the modern world. **Cubism** paved the way for non-representational art by putting new emphasis on the unity between a depicted scene and the surface of the canvas.



PAUL CÉZANNE (1839-1906)
'Bibemus Quarry', 1895
(oil on canvas)



Georges Braque. *Houses at L'Estaque*, 1908



Pablo Picasso. *Landscape at Céret (Paysage de Céret)* 1911

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE

In America, the Hudson River School of landscape painting was the first significant grouping of artists whose paintings portrayed unspoiled reaches of the new continent as symbols of God's power and benevolence.



Cliffs of Green River by Thomas Moran (1837–1926), 1874.
Oil on canvas. Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas.

View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow by Thomas Cole (1801-1848), 1836. Oil on canvas.

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: UNIT EXPECTATIONS

The landscape genre has evolved greatly over the last century. This unit will explore the many movements or styles that have contributed to the landscape genre by using both traditional and contemporary art tools.

Students are expected to create digital and non-digital landscapes and submit an independent research paper on an artist whose practice includes the landscape genre.

Class time will be used predominantly for studio practice.

PART A - Ephemeral assemblage, Photography & Stop-Animation

PART B – Independent Research Paper

PART C – Watercolour Landscape

THE LANDSCAPE GENRE: UNIT TIMELINE & DUE DATES

- Digital Exploration - November 7 – 17 (Studio Time)
 - **INTRODUCE** **DUE DATE**
 - DAY A - NOVEMBER 7 DAY A – DECEMBER 2
 - DAY B - NOVEMBER 8 DAY B - DECEMBER 1
- Independent research paper – November 22 – 23 (Studio Time) * you may also use this studio time for your digital film
 - **INTRODUCE** **DUE DATE**
 - DAY A - NOVEMBER 11 DAY A – DECEMBER 2
 - DAY B – NOVEMBER 10 DAY B – DECEMBER 1
- Watercolour Landscape – November 28 -December 9 (Studio Time)
 - **INTRODUCE** **DUE DATE**
 - DAY A - NOVEMBER 28 DAY A – DECEMBER 8
 - DAY B – NOVEMBER 29 DAY B – DECEMBER 9