Maritime Romanticism
Created by Jake Tedesco
January, 2021

Motivation

Inspired by the artwork of Ivan Aivazovsky, students will be introduced to his maritime painting and the Romantic movement in art. In this project, students will draw a sailing ship, by following step-by-step instructions to create a vessel much like those that made the great oceans passable for exploration, transportation, and trade. In order to intensify the drawing composition, students will apply color by layering transparent washes of watercolor paints.

Student Objectives

- Introduce students to the marine art of Russian artist Ivan Aivazovsky.
- Learn about the Romantic art movement.
- Demonstrate skill in use of tools and process: pencil drawing and painting with watercolors.

Historical and Cultural Connections

The **Romantic movement (or Romanticism)** was an artistic, intellectual, and literary movement that spread throughout Europe at the end of the 18th century and was in its height during the mid 1800's. It was considered a direct response to the Industrial Revolution. The movement focused on intense emotion as a source of inspiration. During this time, water was "left to speak for itself; the weather would play a huge part in what emotions were experienced from viewing a painting. " For example, the sea could be depicted in many different ways. It could be painted as rough, stormy, dark, or calm, etc. Each of these evoking a different viewer experience.

Ivan Aviazovsky (1817-1900) was a Romantic painter considered one of the greatest Marine artists in history. Born to an Armenian family living on the Black Sea, he later traveled to Europe. There he picked up some European influences, but quickly returned to his homeland Russia. Because he had ties with the military and political elite, in the mid 1840's Aviazovsky was appointed the main painter of the Russian Navy. There his emphasis on maritime subject inevitably grew (although not all of his works are focused on maritime subjects). Aviazovsky and his art were well respected during his

lifetime. He was sponsored by the Russian Imperial Family and considered one of the most prominent Russian painters of all time with his work sought after not only in Russia, but throughout Europe and the United States.

Ship "Twelve Apostles" (1878)

The big Mercury encounter after defeating two Turkish ships of the Russian squadron (1848)

Stormy Sea at Night (1849)

Vocabulary

Line: A point moving in space. Line can vary in width, length, curvature, color, or direction.

Marine art: or **Maritime** art has the sea or ocean as its main focal point. Prominent between the 17th and 19th century, boats were the general central subject as was the ocean, sky, and coast. People could also be included.

Shade: Color with black added to it.

Shadow: Formed where the light is blocked.

Shape: A two-dimensional area or plane that may be open or closed, free-form or geometric. It can be found in nature or is made by humans.

Tone: Color shaded or darkened with gray (black plus white). Differences in tones of light and dark are called value.

Wash: Refers to a layer of color that is somewhat transparent applied with diluted paint. Typically, they are applied over a large area of a painting to help create backgrounds or build layers of color.

Watercolor: Transparent pigment mixed with water.

Supplies

8 1⁄2" X 11" white drawing paper: 67lb. vellum Bristol or cardstock
2B drawing pencil or regular #2 pencil
Black Prismacolor pencil or any <u>black</u> pencil
Round watercolor brush, large
No. 2 soft bristle brush or any small bristle brush (optional)
Watercolor set (8 colors)
Water container (filled about 1/3 with water)
Paper towels

Set-up: Video instruction
- Pencils
- Printed copies:
  - Project paper with AAYF label.
  - Visual Guide, page #1.
  - Visual Guide, page #2.
- Set aside: Watercolor palette, brushes, container with water, and paper towel.
- Access to artist's video.

Step-by-Step:

1. Complete the AAYF project label and turn paper over, holding it vertical.
2. **Start artist's video:** Pause the video whenever additional time is needed to complete a task.

Part 1: Pencil Sketch
- When using the pencils, sketch lightly:
  - Heavy pencil marks are difficult to remove and may dent the paper.
  - Transparent watercolors (applied later) will not cover mistakes.

Begin by drawing lines with the 2B or regular pencil as directed by the artist in the video.
1. Use the Visual Guide page #1 as reference. (Note: For younger students, limit the number of sails to one row and one jib (Note: drawing jib, second Visual Guide page).
2. When the drawing is complete, set the pencil and Visual Guide page #1 aside.

Part 2: Black Pencil
- Used firmly to makes dark black lines.
- Used lightly can create different gray shadows.
- Cannot be erased.

Continue drawing with black pencil following the artist video and referring to the Visual Guide page #2.
1. Press down hard with the black pencil and trace all sketch lines (now making them black).

2. Continuing with the black pencil, add masts (lines connecting sails to the ship):
- Add details: Planks on the hull of the ship, ropes, anchors, name plates, etc.

Add shadows as directed by the artist in video referring to the bottom of Visual Guide page #2.
3. To make ships appear more dimensional add shadows. The light source is above the ship:
- Use less pencil pressure to add tones of gray shadows.
- Add shadows to:
  - The bottom and right sides of the sails.
  - The hull, on the bottom position, the right of the front of the bow, and towards the rear of the boat.
  - Any other elements that have been added.
4. Sign name in bottom right corner with black pencil. (Note: It is difficult to sign with a pencil once the watercolor is applied and the paper is wet).
5. Set black pencil and Visual Guide page #2 aside.

Part 3: Watercolor
Since watercolor paint is transparent, it will not cover the black pencil work. It only adds a light wash of color. Brushstrokes of layered washes of color (more water, less paint) will make the artwork more "dramatic".
- Watercolor requires lots of water:
  - Dark washes of color: More color and less water.
  - Light washes of color: Less color and more water
- Don't dig brushes into the paints. Only soak up the "juice" on the top of each color.
- Clean the brush before using a new color.
- Don't mix the colors in the tray that will ruin the paints.
  - To mix colors, put one color on the paper, clean your brush, the add the next color.

1. Take out the watercolor paints, brushes, container with water, and paper towel. ***Continue following the artist video, begin painting only when instructed.***
2. Start with the big areas using a light wash: Paint the sky and the sea.
- Use more than one color for each.
- If something is to be white, do not add any paint to the space.
3. For the ship, use small amounts of paint on the tip of the brush.
- To make a point on the round brush, dip it in the water and then roll the bristles on the paper towel back and forth.
4. If small brushes are available, use them last for details. (Note: Small areas require less water).

5. Leave the painting in place. Do not move until the painting is dry to avoid dripping.
   - Check for pools of water: Use paper towel to dab those areas.

Aesthetic Valuing
1. Does your painting remind you of Thanksgiving and the Mayflower?
2. Were you able to easily follow the directed drawing?
3. How did adding the watercolor paint change your artwork?
4. Do you think your ship is sail worthy?

**About Jake Tedesco, Presenting Artist**
Jake Tedesco is an artist, instructor, and life-long South Bay resident. Focusing on teaching his students to "see to draw", his techniques are the continuation of a 30 year tradition started by his mother, Julia Tedesco, a well-known and respected member of the South Bay community.

Jake has been providing and instructing enrichment classes for Elementary Schools throughout the South Bay for the last 11 years. He currently instructs regular classes with his program, "Art with Jake Online". Aside from teaching, he is an illustrator, painter and graphic designer, working with a wide range of clients on a variety of projects. In his free time he enjoys time with his son and is forever creating something new.

Art At Your Fingertips is a Palos Verdes Art Center school-based outreach program in partnership with the Palos Verdes Unified School District and the Palos Verdes Library District. Founded in 1976, this volunteer program annually brings quality visual arts education to almost 7,000 transitional kindergarten through fifth grade students at public and private schools on the Palos Verdes Peninsula as well as schools and organizations beyond the Peninsula.

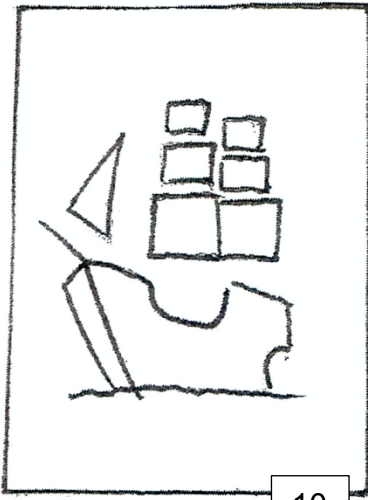**We thank PTA, PTO, and Booster Club for their support.**

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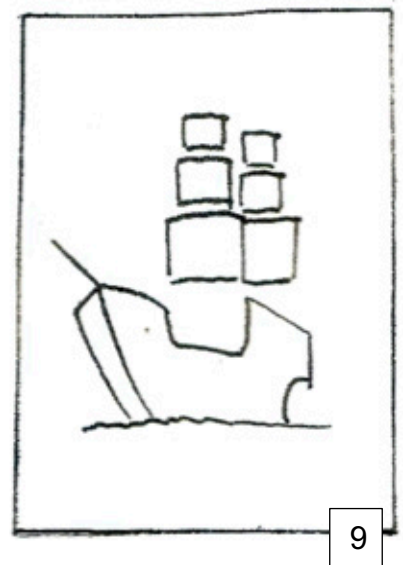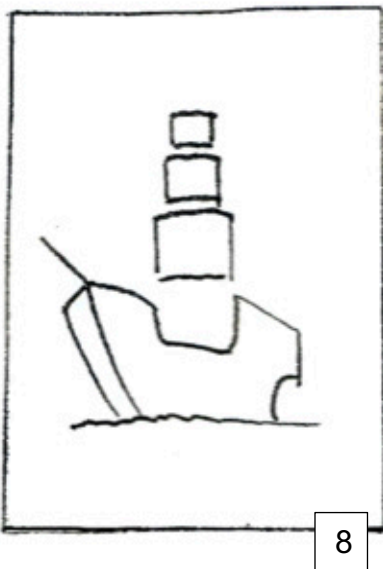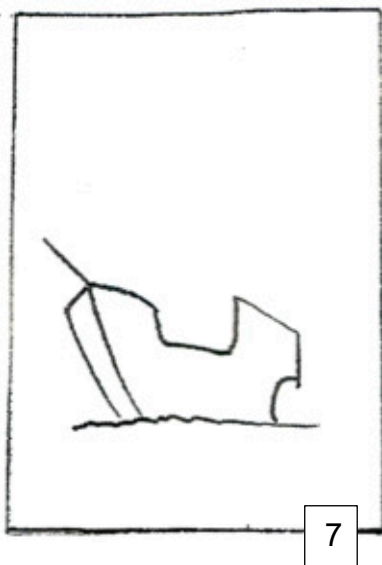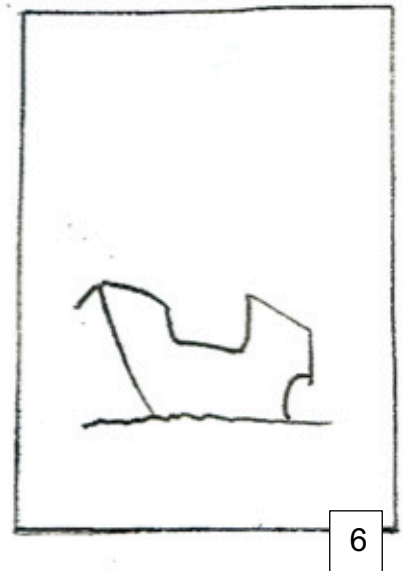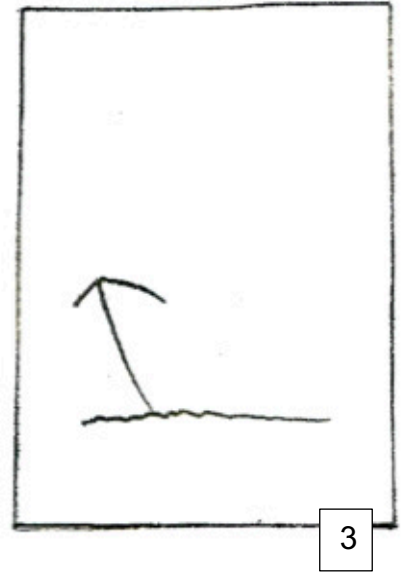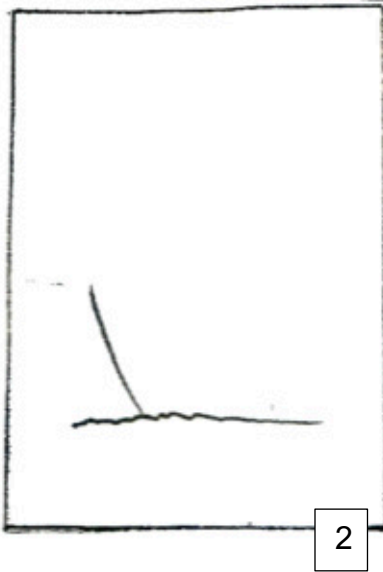
Note: One row of sails for younger students
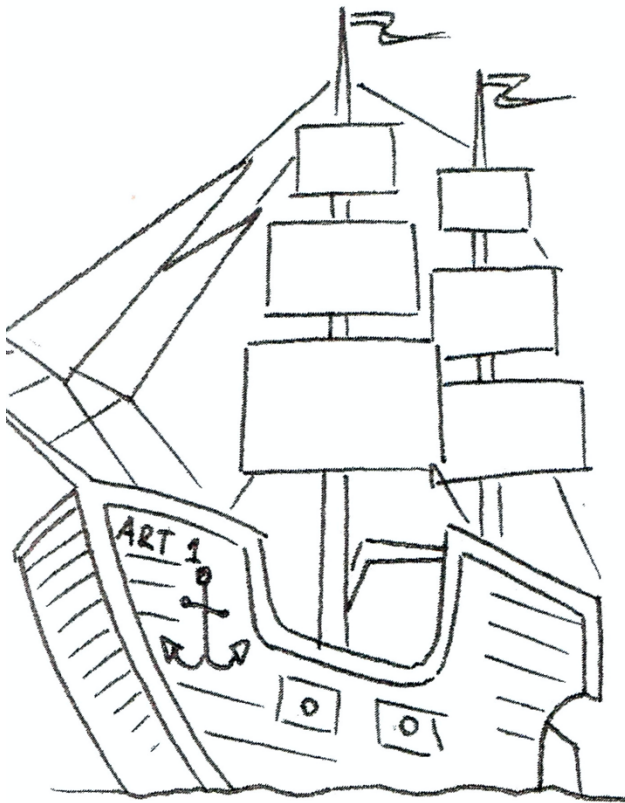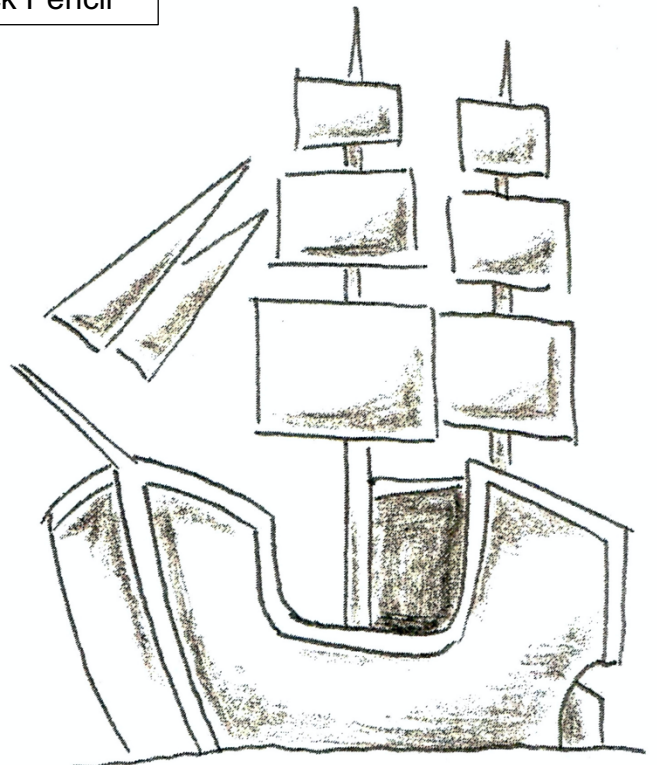
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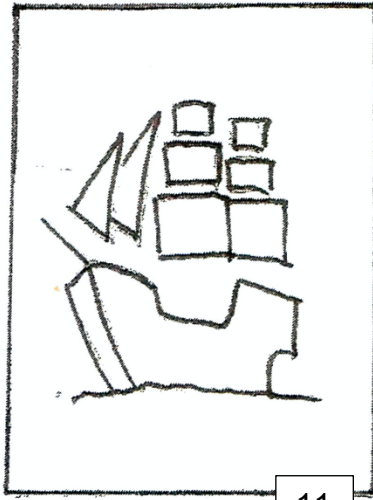
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Note: One jib for younger students

Black Pencil

Detail Ideas

Shadow Ideas

Maritime Romanticism

Inspired by the Art of Ivan Aivazovsky:
The World of Maritime Painting and the Romantic Period

Check out these resources from the Palos Verdes Library District to learn about late Romanticism, as seen in the seascapes of a celebrated Russian-Armenian painter.

These materials may be found at the PVLD library:

Juvenile Nonfiction
J709.034 Riggs. What is Romanticism? by Kate Riggs (book, 24 pages)
Describes the works of such famous landscape painters of the Romantic era as John Constable and J.M.W. Turner, whose depictions of nature focused on the display of light and shadow and the color of the sky.

J709.034 Gunderson. Romanticism by Jessica Gunderson (book, 48 pages)
An examination of the art movement known as Romanticism from its beginnings in the late 1700s to its decline in the mid-1800s, including an introduction to great artists and works. Includes dramatic ocean scenes such as Géricault's "The Raft of the Medusa" and Constable's "Rainstorm over the Sea."

Adult Notification
708.7 Neverov. Great Private Collections of Imperial Russia by Oleg Neverov (book, 256 pages)
Turn to pages 246-247, which reproduce and discuss one of Ivan Aivazovsky's "impressive seascapes" filled with "drama and high emotion" — his "Wild Seas" oil painting of 1868.

709.4 History Pt. 4. A History of European Art by William Kloss (DVD, 30 minutes; with guidebook)
Lecture 40: Romanticism in the 19th Century. In this "Great Courses" video, an art historian delivers a beautifully illustrated lecture about the landmark works of Romantic-era artists.

These websites provide more information:

Ivan Aivazovsky Biography (1817-1900). See: https://totallyhistory.com/ivan-aivazovsky/
Offers a short history of "possibly the best seascape artist" of all time, including an evaluation of his lasting influence.

WikiArt: Visual Art Encyclopedia (Ivan Aivazovsky). See: wikiart.org/en/ivan-aivazovsky Displays 580 artworks by the prolific painter, who "founded an art school and gallery to engage and educate other artists of the day."