



LESSON 7 LEVEL C PERSPECTIVE (SPACE)

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

cutting and pasting to make a monochromatic collage.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: white and black construction paper, 30 x 45.5 cm (12"x18"); 2 pieces of white tissue paper, 30 x 45.5 cm (12"x 18"); scissors; paste or glue

"TIPS": Choose a subject that has:

- a) a background, such as distant hills, buildings, a bridge
- b) a middleground, such as a church, castle or rocket launcher; and
- c) a foreground, such as a skeletal tree and a set of gravestones, or a fence and a gate, or several saguaro cacti, and so forth.

Remember to apply a minimum of paste or glue and only where it can not be seen, such as the very edges of the picture.

WORDS TO LEARN:

value: In art, value refers to how light or dark a color is.

monochromatic: tints and shades of one color

BLACK, WHITE AND GRAY: Atmospheric Perspective through Values



Photograph by Kay Alexander

GETTING STARTED: Look at a group of black and white photographs or reproductions of painted landscapes. Study those that seem to have a special mood of mystery. Look for an atmosphere, such as fog or misty rain. Notice how close-up objects often appear as black silhouettes, while faraway objects are paler, smaller and rather blurred. This kind of feeling of distance is called atmospheric perspective. You can get it by using dark, medium, and light values.

1. Cut some shapes from black paper. That will become the distant part of your landscape. For example, cut a row of hills or a skyline of far-off buildings. Place them on the white paper, but do not glue them down.





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2. Cover the shapes with a piece of white tissue paper. Do not glue it down.
3. Cut some more shapes for the middle ground. Let some shapes overlap the distant shapes as you place them on the tissue. Do not glue.
4. Cover this layer with the second sheet of white tissue paper. Still do not glue.

5. Now cut some large, more complicated shapes for the foreground. Set them in place. Move some of the parts of your composition until you feel it tells a story or sets a mood. Make the arrangement seem balanced.

6. Now you may glue. Carefully lift off the top layers and touch-glide the shapes and the tissue paper (at the edges), one layer at a time.

CLEAN-UP: Save any large scraps for a future project. Discard the rest. Replace the cap on the glue. Wash your sticky hands. (They **MUST** be sticky!)

TALK ABOUT IT: Did you achieve an atmospheric effect of distance and perhaps a mood of mystery? Does your composition show a balance of dark and light areas? How many values does your picture have?

MORE IDEAS: Make a similar mood landscape using only black, white and gray values of watercolor, tempera paint or pastels. Study some monochromatic (one color) photographs. Try to count the number of different values, light to dark.

CONNECTIONS: 1. Find out about the history of photography, an art form that is not yet 200 years old.
2. Learn how a camera works and how film is exposed, developed and printed.
3. Visit an exhibition of photographs and choose your favorite print. Tell the reasons for your choice.
4. Learn how digital photography is different from the traditional kind.
5. Ask someone to help you scan a photograph. Display it on a computer. Send it to someone by e-mail.