



LESSON 12 LEVEL B REAL BUT NOT REALLY

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:
painting with oil pastels

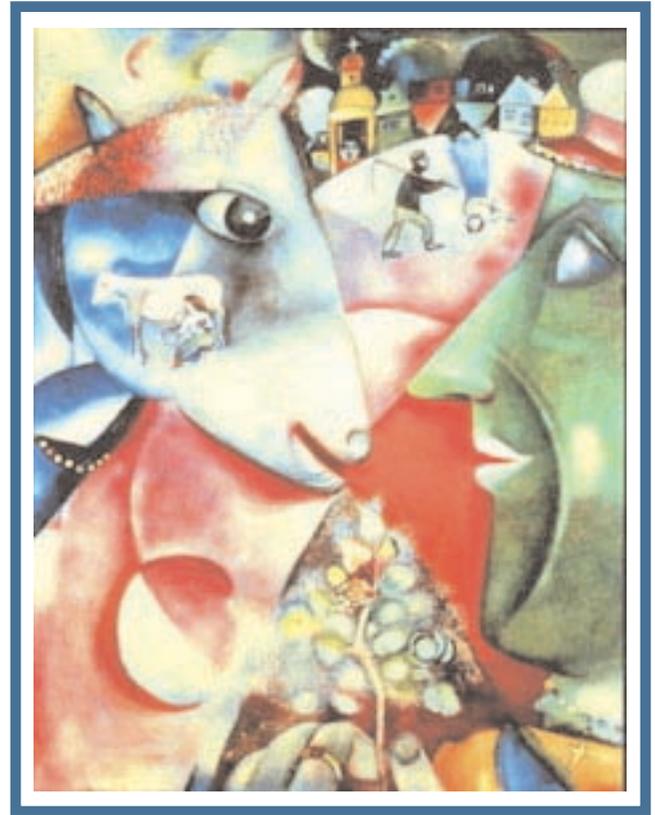
WHAT YOU WILL NEED: black or dark-colored construction paper; oil pastels; chalk; scratch paper; newspaper to cover work area

“TIPS”: Oil pastel colors are brighter than dry, colored, chalk pastels. They do not need to be sprayed with fixative to make them stick on your paper. Try pressing lightly; then, firmly. Then try blending two or more colors.

WORDS TO LEARN:

center of interest the object in a picture which first catches your eye
surreal: unreal, fantastic, dreamlike

A WORLD OF DREAMS AND FANTASY: A Really Unreal Picture



Marc Chagall *I and the Village* 1911
Museum of Modern Art New York City

Getting Started: Many things exist in our imagination and our dreams that could not be or happen in real

life. Have you ever dreamed of flying through the air just by waving your arms? Have you ever imagined strange creatures or situations that would be impossible to find in the real world? The artist, Marc Chagall, painted many pictures during his long life. He was inspired by his vivid imagination and dreams. You can use your oil pastels to create such a colorful, imaginative picture. Make a list of six or more “situations” that would never exist except in fantasy or dreams. For example, think of a girl with a blue-green face, people floating on clouds, a weird bird as large as a house, flowers growing from an animal’s ears. Start to draw only when your ideas are flowing rapidly.

1. Refer to your list or make up more ideas as you go along. Sketch on the



dark paper with a piece of chalk. (These lines will be covered up later, so don't bother to erase them.)

2. Fill the entire paper with your imaginative ideas. Now work them into a composition with some lines and shapes of buildings, trees, or other parts of a landscape.

3. Color your picture with bright oil pastels. Make sure to contrast light shapes against a darker or dull object or background as Marc Chagall did. This makes your picture "readable" from a distance.

4. Stand several steps away. See if your art work needs to be adjusted by changing a color or adding another object or two to make a better balance.



Victor Age 7

MORE IDEAS: Make a fantastic dream picture with tempera paints.

CLEAN UP: Put away your materials. Throw away the newspaper. That's all there is to it.

TALK ABOUT IT: Do you feel that your completed picture "hangs together"? Is there a main center of interest that is larger, more colorful or more detailed than the rest? Does the picture seem to express an emotion or a mood that you might have in a dream?

CONNECTIONS: Read about Marc Chagall and look for more of his paintings. Try www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/chagall_marc.html

The artist was a poet as well as a painter. Write a poem about *your* art work.

Chagall's dreamlike fantasies are surreal. . .real, but not really real. This quality made him a member of the Surrealist group of painters. Chagall was Surrealist for a while, but then changed his mind. You can find out about Surrealism in art books and magazines as well as on the Internet.