

Getting Started



Grant Wood, *Vegetable Garden, Moret*, 1924, Oil on canvas
Collection Muscatine Art Center

Introduction

This set of lessons explores some basic principles of art while introducing students to works by Iowa artists from the collection of the Muscatine Art Center. Some lessons focus on building vocabulary through compare and contrast activities. Other lessons demonstrate techniques used by artists to represent the 3-dimensional world on a flat piece of paper or canvas. Brief biographical information about the artists is found in the “Meet the Artists” section.

Pre-Lesson Assessment

Determine students’ prior knowledge of basic principles of art and art vocabulary by showing them the painting, *Vegetable Garden, Moret* (above) by Grant Wood. Have students write down or verbally respond to the painting using the following questions.

- Which words would you use to describe the painting?
- What do you think is going on in this painting?
- What do you see that makes you think that?

Class Discussion

State that the painting was created by Grant Wood. Ask the students to share their prior knowledge of Grant Wood. Explain that he is one of Iowa’s best known artists and that he helped others develop their own techniques for capturing everyday experiences. Details from Grant Wood’s biography (found in the “Meet the Artists” section) can be shared with students.

Let students know that they will be examining works of art created by Grant Wood and many other Iowa artists connected to him. Students will be asked to look closely, brainstorm words to describe what they see, use their imaginations, and occasionally create their own artwork.