

Strange Shapes: Sketching in Surrealism

Lesson Length:

7-10 Day

Materials:

- ☐ Copic Sketchbook Paper or X-Press It Blending Card
- ☐ Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials (Sketch Set)



National Visual Arts Standards Applicable:

3B (7-9) – Use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meanings in artworks.

4C (7-9) – Analyze, describe, and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas, and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art.

Objectives/Essential Learning/Teacher Point:

- A. Students will learn about Salvador Dali and the Surrealism movement.
- B. Students will learn about organic and geometric shapes, juxtaposition, and color theory.
- C. Students will create a Surrealist image using the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set. The subject matter drawn in the image is up to the artist but students must use both organic and geometric shapes, and must use the entire color palette in the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set.

Procedure:

Day 1:

Students are introduced to Salvador Dali's Surrealism artwork.

Introduction of relevant art terms and techniques

- ☐ Discovery of shapes (organic/geometric)
- ☐ Color theory introduction based on the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set
- ☐ Juxtaposition

Creation of 3-5 thumbnail sketches based on chosen Surrealism idea: sketches should include organic/geometric shapes.

Day 2/3:

Successful completed visual example of the project is shown and final design process begins:

- ☐ Once thumbnail is approved, students are given the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set.
- ☐ Students are advised to do preliminary sketch with lighter shade of blue or green from sketch set (easiest to cover later).

Day 4-7:

Given review of demonstration of **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set blending techniques and color family relationships, students will use their sketch sets to complete their drawings. Each of the 6 colors in the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set must be used in the drawing.

- ☐ Use of layering will be important to build bold values
- ☐ Mixing colors across families will create darker shadows and interesting color combinations
- ☐ Outlining shapes/forms will help create contrast

Formative Assessment

- Reception of color theory with **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set

- Evaluation of thumbnail sketches
- Evaluation of preliminary light sketch
- Continuous student critiques of in-process marker techniques/studio work

Summative Assessment:

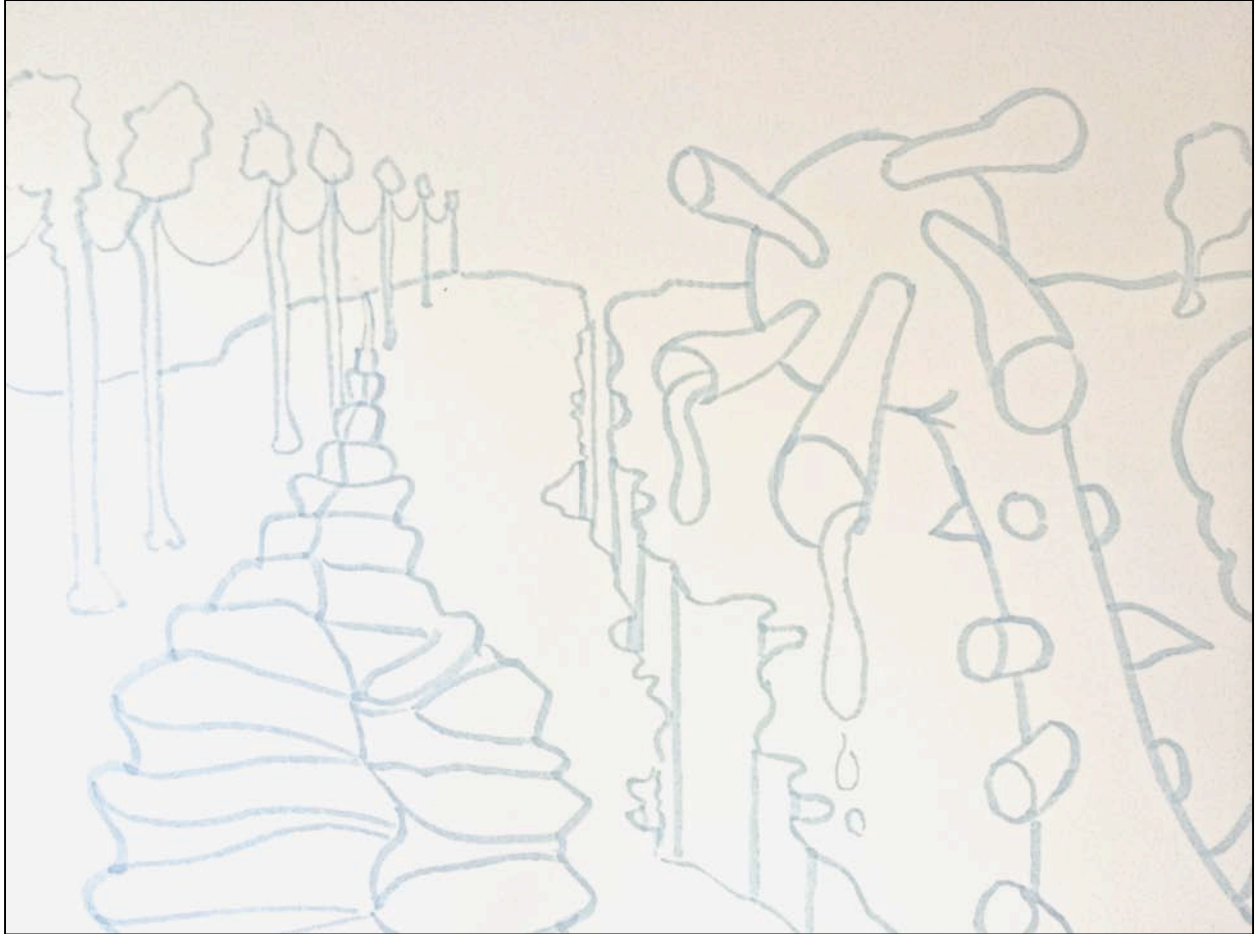
Final Project Evaluated based on completion of studio objectives:

1. Use of organic/geometric shapes
2. Use of all 6 color from the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set
3. Finished drawing – no negative space unless logical for image
4. Demonstrated understanding of Surrealism concept in subject matter/artwork

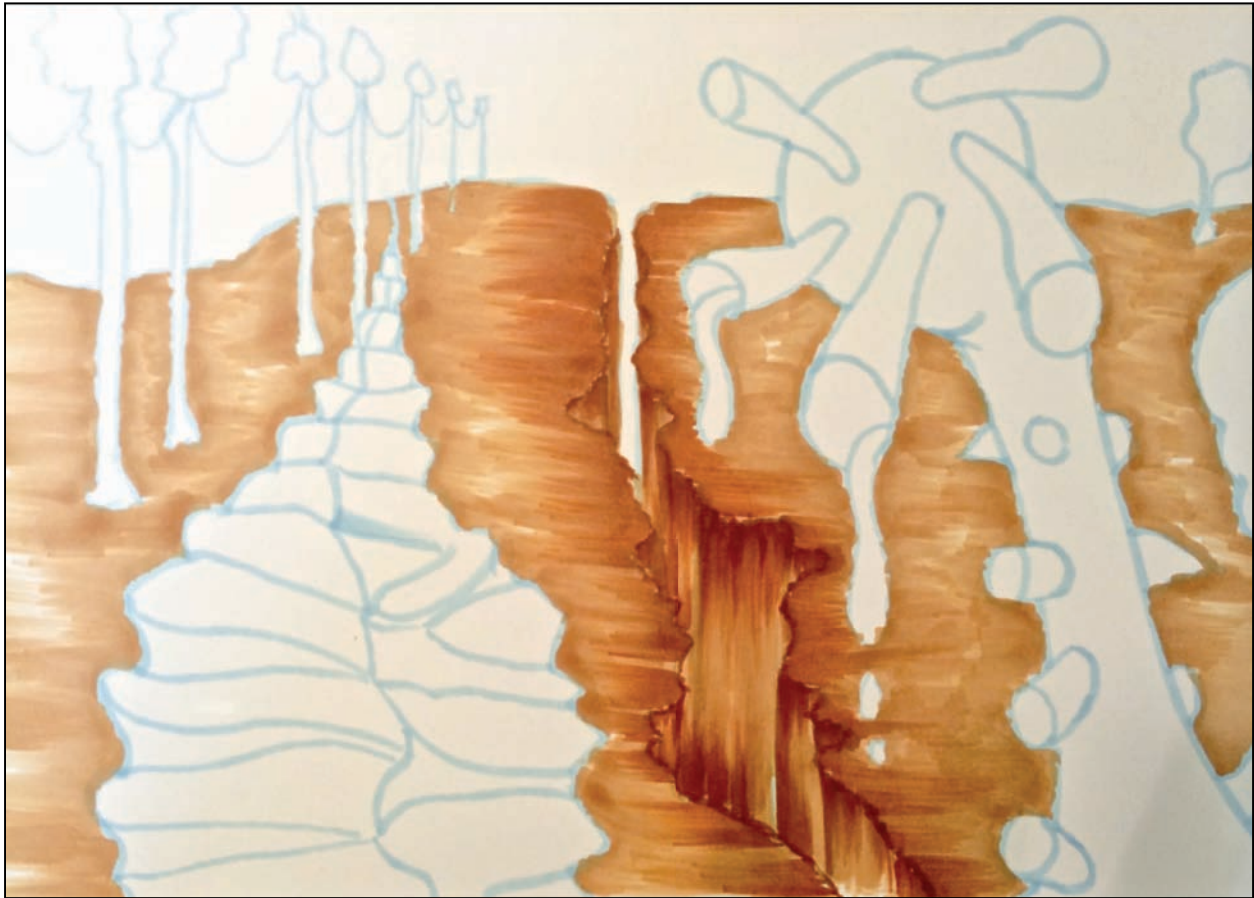
Vocabulary:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surrealism | <input type="checkbox"/> Geometric shape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salvador Dali | <input type="checkbox"/> Outlines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juxtaposition | <input type="checkbox"/> Color theory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shape | <input type="checkbox"/> Color families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organic shape | |
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Project Directions



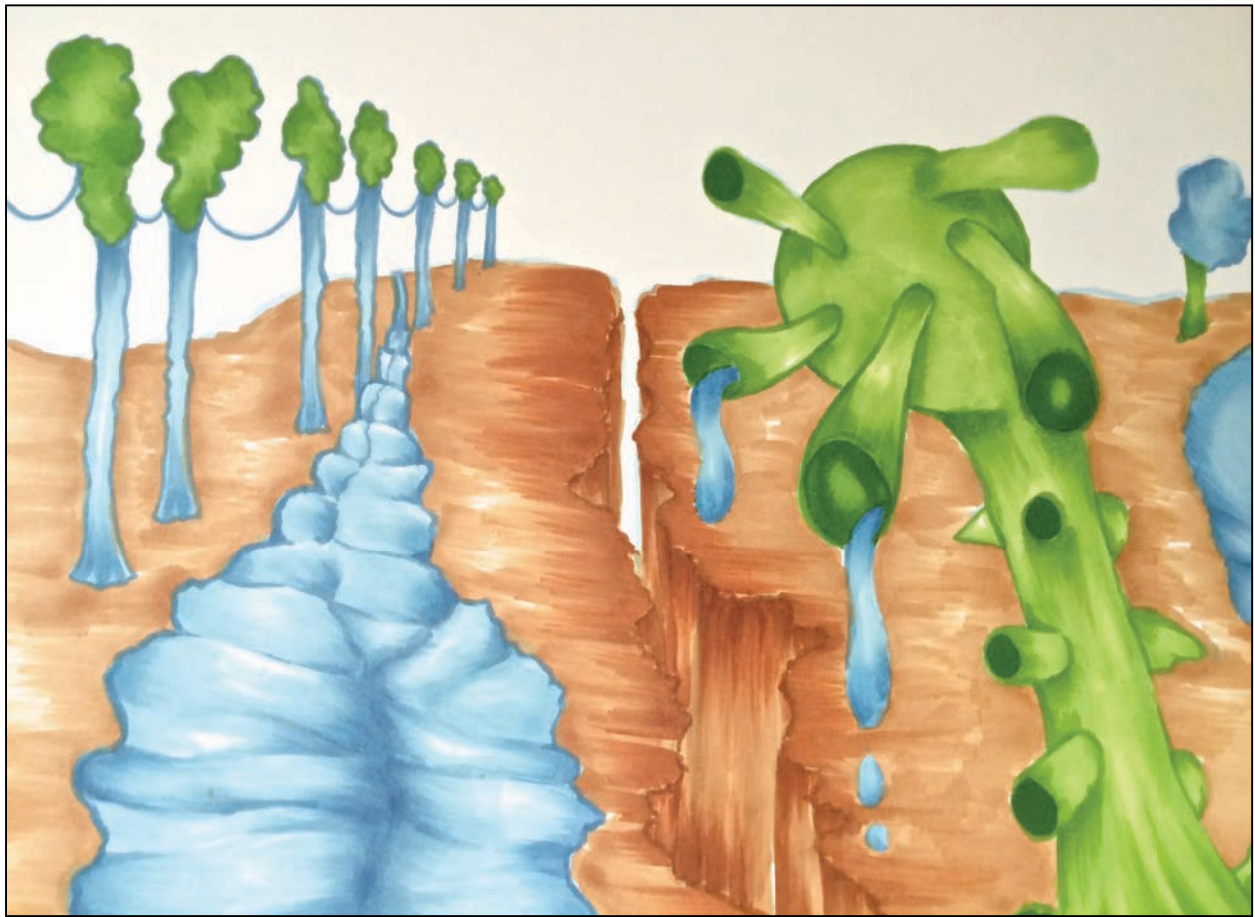
1. Surrealism sketch should be drawn with one of the lighter colors in the **Copic 6-Piece Earth Essentials** sketch set. The preliminary sketch shown was drawn with (**B41 – Powder Blue**). Sketch lines will later be covered with many layers of color – thus, there is no problem with sketching quickly or overlapping shapes/lines.



2. Generally, starting with the background is a good practice. In this image, the artist chose browns to make the ground look like dusty, rocky terrain (as seen in many Dali paintings).

Layer (**E34 – Orientale**), making sure to use directional line to create texture on the rocky surface. Layering **E34** multiple times in the same spot allows the color to increase in saturation, becoming bolder.

Add (**E39 – Leather**) for the shadows, and darker textures on the ground. Then layer **E34** back over the darker **E39** to mix the colors together and work toward a natural blend of earth-tone browns. This practice will be repeated with several other color families.



3. “Flick” **B41** in various directions and leave a small white highlight in the middle of each shape. Then layer on (**B45 – Smoky Blue**) to add a darker value to the blue areas. Finish by layering **B41** back over the top to create a smooth blend.

Follow the same basic steps with **YG13** and (**YG17 – Grass Green**) for plant life. The colors in each pair are only a few “numbers” away from one another on the Copic color chart and thus, allow the artist to create beautifully smooth blends.



4. Continue to use color pairs to fill in remaining space. Blend **YG13** and **YG17** to create the sky. Choosing green or brown rather than blue for the sky fits with the Surrealist theme of utilizing outlandish or strange color, shapes and forms.

Try using a fair amount of pressure with the chisel end of the brush to outline each shape/form. This outlining technique will create more contrast and separation amongst the color families. In other words, things will “pop!”

Finished Project



- 5.2 For the final step of the drawing, try mixing and blending colors across families to create deeper shadows. It is important to understand color families/color theory before this step. Layering green over blue will create a darker blue-green. Layering green over brown, and then layering brown on top again, will create deeper brown shadows.

Add **B45** to some green areas to imply darker shadows, and then blend greens back over top. Also, layer (**YG17 – Grass Green**) over the brown areas to create slightly darker shadows where needed.

Use (**E39 – Leather**) to outline shapes and finish the drawing by layering a little bit more with all six colors to saturate the image and make it bolder.
