



Image Credit: Shahar Caren Weaver, *Spiritual Awakening in the City*, 1998, Mixed media collage, 1999.1

Abstract Cityscape

OVERVIEW

This lesson will focus on student's ideal city, real or imagined, looking to their local community for inspiration.

STANDARDS

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can we create a vibrant cityscape based off our ideal community?

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Identify characteristics of their community
- Explore what they want to see in their community, realistic or imaginary
- Demonstrate skill in designing, creating, and cutting to complete their mixed media collage

STANDARDS: KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE | VISUAL ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Kindergarten | VISUAL ARTS 1, 12 | SOCIAL STUDIES 4, 12

1st Grade | VISUAL ARTS 2, 3 | SOCIAL STUDIES 6

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ART DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What do you see in this work of art?
- Is it realistic or abstract?
- What mediums did Shahar Weaver use in this artwork?
- What different types of lines do you see in the artwork? What shapes do you see?
- What do you want to see in your own cityscape?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

"We are creations that possess enormous potential if only we realize our gifts and go forth with confidence and faith. When we believe in ourselves, we enlarge our territories and dreams. When we believe we influence others to dream bigger by our contributions. We are connected."

Laws of reality and reason are questioned when I embark upon the creation of a painting. Often days pass while I unconsciously gather information and ideas for my art, then the excitement of birthing an image in both random and planned thought emerges with a burst of vigor. It is as though a breath of light gives each work a mystical existence. Visions of ancestral origin and wonderment of the spirit world store in my mind and shape reality into personal and universal metaphors. although the images in my work are usual products of an impulsive direction,

the pleasure of the creative process, the need to communicate, and the search for magic are my greatest motivating factors. Making art gives me the feeling that I am accomplishing a mission that was preconceived by the grace of God. The motif and symbolism are imposed into my psyche and are worked through my hands by a superior force of energy. Thus, I can never take credit for this so-called talent...I'm just an earthly tool."

CURRICULUM CONTENT

What makes up a community? Discuss your community starting small and working out. For example: classroom, school, neighborhood, city, state, county.

Create a class list that encompasses student's thoughts and ideas about their community.



Abstract Cityscape

ART INSTRUCTION

MATERIALS

white construction paper or cardstock, oil pastels, watercolors, magazines, image references (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** On a white piece of paper, draw out your city in pencil. Remember to draw light until it's right! The city can be created with basic shapes that touch and overlap, such as rectangles, triangles, circles, ovals, and more. Look to Weaver's work to find different patterns and designs to incorporate into your own artwork.
- 2** Once you have finished drawing your city, outline all pencil lines with oil pastels. This ensures that when you paint your artwork, all of your line stay vibrant. At this time you can begin coloring different lines, designs, and patterns with oil pastels by tracing over your original pencil lines.
- 3** Once you are done with pastels, start painting! Watercolors will glide right over the oil pastels for a semi-transparent painting.
- 4** For an additional touch, add cut sections of magazines like Weaver did in *Spiritual Awakening in the City*. These can be additional buildings in the cityscape or animals/people living in the city.

Tip: When using watercolors, the more water you use the better. Watercolors do not work without water, so make sure you dip your brush in water before adding it to the palette to get more paint.

TERMS

CITYSCAPE - a view or image of a city.

REALISTIC - art work that attempts a photographic likeness of the subject matter; sometimes refers to the choice of subject that is commonplace as opposed to courtly and idealized.

ABSTRACT - artwork where objects have been changed or modified so they no longer look realistic. An abstract work of art does, however, use a recognizable object or thing as its reference or origin.

COMPOSITION - the arrangement of the elements of art and the principles of design within a given work of art.

FOREGROUND -the part of a picture which appears closest to the viewer and often is at the bottom of the picture.

MIDDLE GROUND - Objects in the middle ground appear to be behind objects in the foreground

BACKGROUND -The background is the part of the painting farthest from the viewer. Objects in the background are usually smaller and less distinct than other objects in the work.

YOUTUBE

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