



Capturing everyday beauty through art

GRADES 7–8

The Cab Stand, Quebec is a bright, and expressive oil painting of a winter scene. Explore Kathleen Moir Morris's interests and style with the following activities:

Art Activities

Paint a still life

Morris appreciated the beauty of everyday scenes and objects. Find an object that is meaningful in your everyday life. Study your object. Pay attention to its colour, texture, how light reflects on it and where shadows are formed. Make a sketch and then paint your object, trying to capture the essence of it. A still life doesn't have to be an exact replica. You can take inspiration from Morris and paint in any style that speaks to you.

Practice painting techniques

Morris created depth and emotion in this oil painting by differing brush stroke lengths and using a variety of colours. Pick an outdoor scene in your community and challenge yourself to experiment with bright colours and different shapes and lengths of brush strokes. This is your art; focus on expressing the beauty that you see and enjoy.

Sculpt with snow

On a snowy winter's day, take your creativity outside and sculpt snow-people. Observe the light reflecting on your creation and where shadows are formed. Take pictures from different angles or different times of day to see how the shadows change.



If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities:

Research a local place (geography and history)

Think of a place that you visit a lot, but don't know much about. Research the geography and history of your chosen place. You may want to consider: its flora and fauna, geographic features, climate, if the land belongs to an Indigenous nation, the history of its infrastructure, who the first settlers were and more. You can demonstrate your learning in many ways such as a poster, a video or a news article.

Express beauty through words (language)

Think of your favourite place. Use detailed, descriptive writing to depict as many things as you can about the physical setting of your chosen place. The language you use can also help portray your emotions towards the place. You could choose to write a diary entry, poem, short story and more!

Glossary

Still life: A still life is a type of art that focuses on still objects placed together. This often includes man-made objects such as books, glasses and candlesticks as well as natural things like cut flowers and fruit.