

## Exploring Fauvism and Creating Colorful Landscapes

**Time:** 1 hour

**Difficulty level:** Medium

**Messy level:** Medium



André Derain, *The Turning Road, L'Estaque*, 1906, oil on canvas, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, John A. and Audrey Jones Beck Collection, gift of Audrey Jones Beck, 74.138. © Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris



Family Programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive generous support from the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

Learning and Interpretation programs receive generous funding from the Jerold B. Katz Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services; H-E-B; MD Anderson Cancer Center; The Brown Foundation, Inc.; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Sharon G. Dies; Susan Vaughan Foundation; and additional generous donors.

All Learning and Interpretation programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive endowment funds provided by Louise Jarrett Moran Bequest; Caroline Wiess Law; Windgate Foundation; the William Randolph Hearst Foundation; Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Fondren Foundation; BMC Software, Inc.; the Wallace Foundation; the Neal Myers and Ken Black Children's Art Fund; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard; Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Tate; the Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation; Virginia and Ira Jackson; the Favrot Fund; CFP Foundation; Neiman Marcus Youth Arts Education; gifts in memory of John Wynne; and gifts in honor of Beth Schneider.

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit [mfah.org/art](http://mfah.org/art) and enter the artwork's title in the search bar.

This activity will guide you in exploring the use of bright colors to create a landscape inspired by the Fauvist movement and André Derain's *The Turning Road, L'Estaque*.

### Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Find a color and use your eyes to follow it throughout the painting. How would you describe all the areas in which you found that color?
2. Describe the trees. How are the trees in this painting different from trees you see in nature? Why do you think the artist would paint the trees that way?
3. Fauvism is an artistic movement in which artists used bright, but not necessarily descriptive, colors to bring paintings to life. André Derain transformed the colors of the tree trunks to reds, blues, and oranges and the turning path to bright yellow. Fauvists used the expressive element of color without concern for the natural appearance of an object. How would this work of art be different if the artist used more realistic or descriptive colors?

### Let's Make Some Art! Gather These Art Materials

- Regular pencil
- 9 x 12 inch sheet of watercolor paper
- Black permanent marker
- Paintbrush
- 5 water-soluble oil pastels
- Q-tip
- Water and water cup

### Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Using a pencil, draw a landscape that inspires you, such as a beach, forest, park, river, lake, etc.
2. Think about what colors would naturally be used to paint your landscape, for example, blue water, green tree leaves, and brown tree trunks. Now imagine how you can transform those colors into vivid, "Fauvist colors." Use your pastels to apply color to your landscape, choosing those bright, vivid colors you just imagined.
3. Use a Q-tip dipped in water to blend the water-soluble oil pastels.
4. When your landscape is dry, use a black marker to outline the main objects with soft lines. Fauvists used soft, undulating lines to create their cheerful landscapes. Try to avoid hard and angular lines in your landscape.