Vista

Landscape art

Landscape is a genre of art that became popular during the eighteenth century. It originally showed only natural scenery, such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers and forests. More recently, landscape art has also included urban and industrial landscapes that are often referred to as cityscapes.

Snowdon from Llyn Nantlle by Richard Wilson, c1765–1767

The Poppy Field near Argenteuil by Claude Monet, 1873
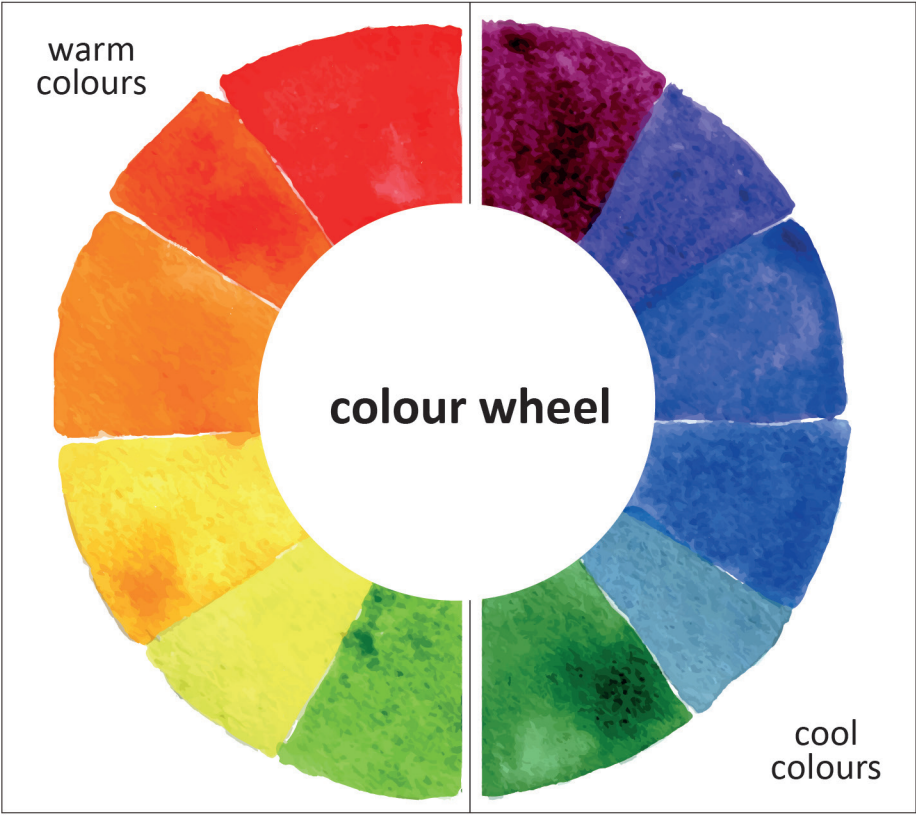

Mountainous Landscape Behind Saint-Paul Hospital by Vincent van Gogh, 1889

Going to Work by L S Lowry, 1943

Warm and cool colours

The choice of colour that an artist makes can create a feeling of warmth or coolness in a painting.

warm colours

colour wheel

cool colours

Red, orange and yellow are warm colours and remind people of heat, fire, blood and the Sun. Cool colours include purple, blue and green and remind people of water, shade and cold weather. Artists can use warm or cool colours to express moods and emotions.
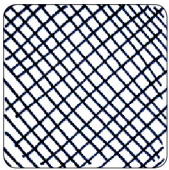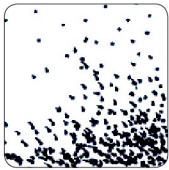

cool colours

warm colours

Shading techniques

Shading techniques, such as cross-hatching, hatching, stippling and random lines, can be used to add different tones to a landscape. Using lines that are thicker or closer together will create darker tones. Using lines that are thinner or further apart will produce lighter tones.
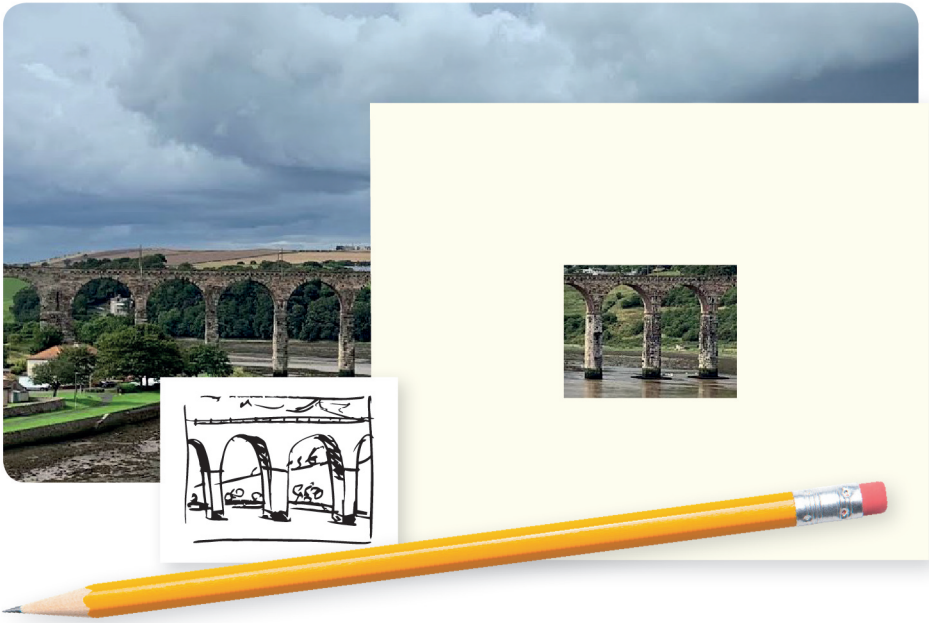
cross-hatching

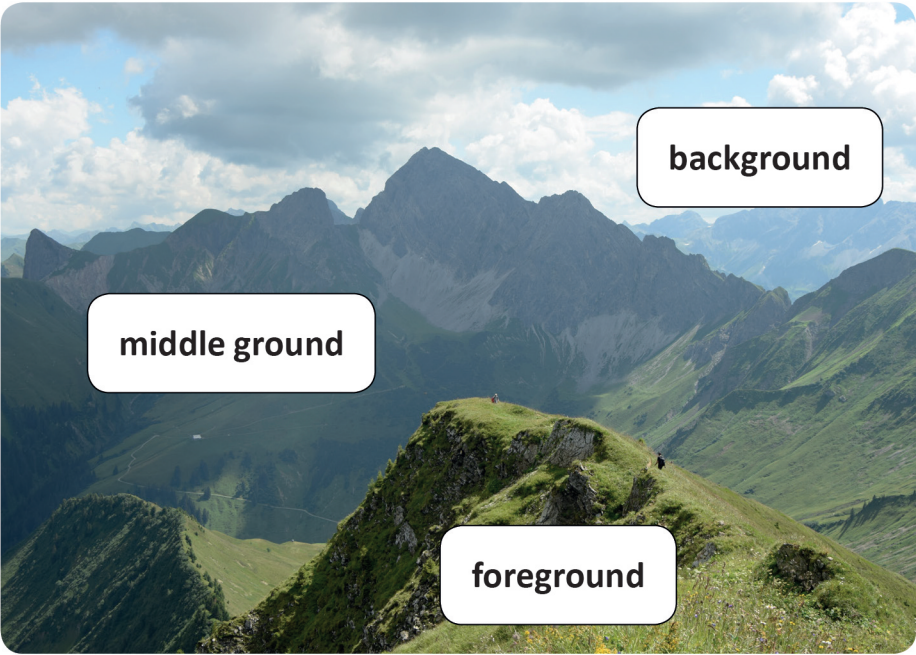stippling

hatching

random lines

Viewfinders

A viewfinder is a frame that isolates a small part of a landscape. The artist looks through the viewfinder and moves it around the scene until they find a part of the landscape that they want to draw or paint.
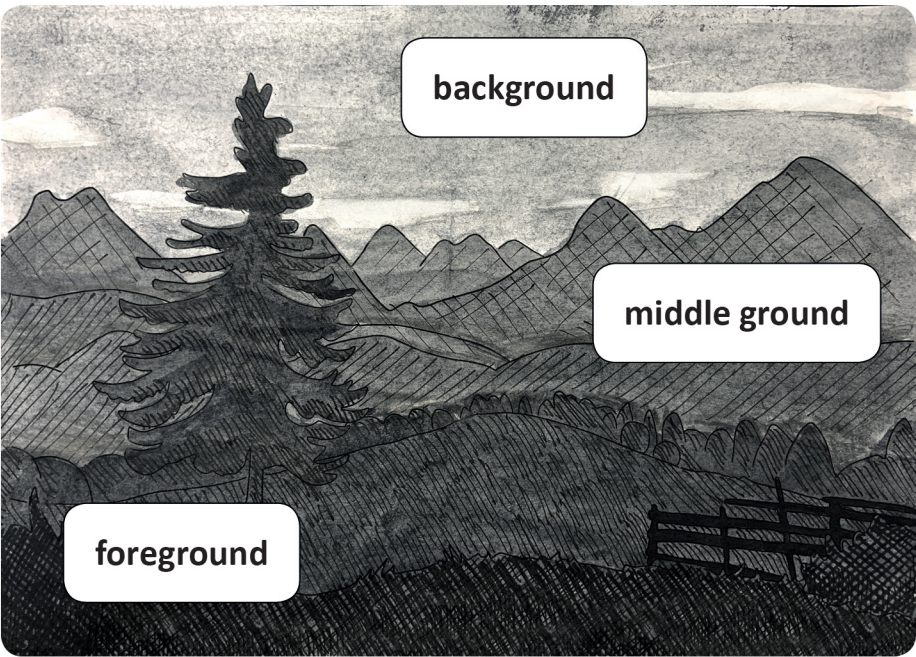
Atmospheric perspective

Atmospheric perspective is a technique that creates depth in a landscape. The objects that are further away from the viewer are painted in lighter and sometimes blue tones. Objects that are closer to the viewer are painted in darker, stronger tones. A variety of shading techniques and watercolour or ink washes can be used to create different tones in a landscape.

background

middle ground

foreground

A photograph showing atmospheric perspective.

background

middle ground

foreground

Atmospheric perspective created using a variety of shading techniques.

Glossary

cross-hatching	A drawing technique that uses groups of parallel lines, which usually overlap at a 90° angle, to add shade, tone and texture to a drawing.
genre	An artistic style that has a set of specific characteristics.
hatching	A drawing technique that uses a series of parallel lines to add shade, tone and texture to a drawing.
landscape	A view or picture of an area of land.
scene	A view or picture of a place, activity or event.
stippling	A drawing technique that uses dots to create areas of light and shade.
technique	An activity that requires skill to complete.
tone	A lighter or darker version of a colour.
wash	A thin layer of watery paint.
watercolour	A paint, usually mixed with a large amount of water.