

An Introduction to Journaling

like a Dutch Golden Age Artist!

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

During the Dutch Golden Age, scientists, artists, and philosophers would meet together to discuss ideas. Intellectual circles and schools of thought were formed. Let's create our own "intellectual circle" as we share and create our journal entries.

We challenge you to journal like a Dutch Golden Age Artist! Follow along with the weekly lesson plans found on WCMFA.org and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Facebook Page! Here is a little cheat sheet that you may want to come back to throughout the lessons.



Read through the following vocabulary words. You'll need to know them to fully understand the instructions for the journal prompts. Click the links (and QRcodes) to watch videos for further investigation on the definitions and explanations.

Etching: the art or process of producing drawings or pictures by printing from etched plates.

For a visual explanation on the process of how etchings are made, check out this QR code or <https://www.parkwestgallery.com/how-are-etchings-made/>



Rembrandt van Rijn
Dutch, 1606-1669
Stoning of St. Stephen, 1635
etching
Gift, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Goodman

Engraving is another printmaking technique. The main difference between engraving and etching is the amount of metal that's removed and how the metal is removed. To create an etching, the artist uses acid to



remove metal and only takes away the top layer. Engraving is created by the artists physically cutting lines creating a much deeper incision in the plate. Developed as a printmaking method in the 15th century, engraving is a technique where a plate of soft metal is cut into with a 'burin' tool to create an image (Cooksongold, 2019).

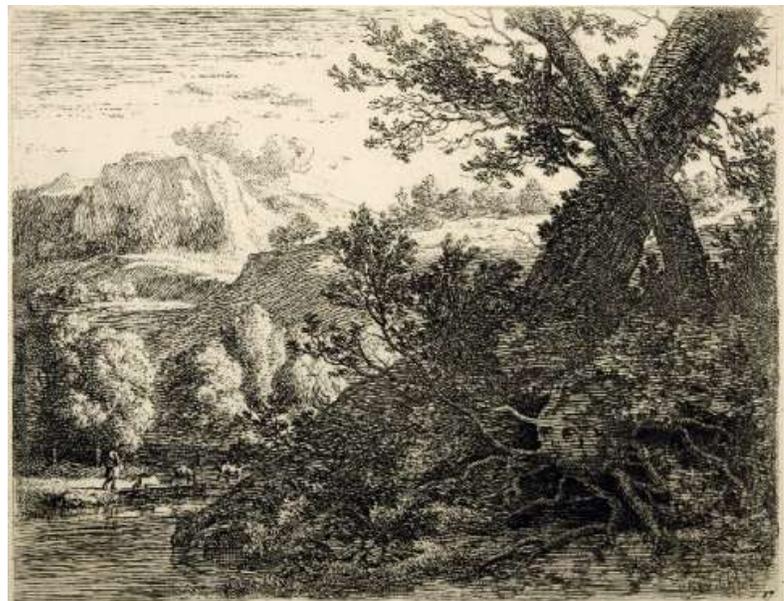
Rembrandt van Rijn
Dutch, 1606-1669
Dr. Faust (Scholar in his Study), 1652
Etching
Reading Public Museum, Gift, Mr. and Mrs.
Nelson Goodman, 22 7/8 x 16 7/8 in.
1962.1.1

Chiaroscuro is an Italian term which translates as light-dark, and refers to the balance and contrast of light and shade.

Let's look at Rembrandt van Rijn's etching, *Dr. Faust*, 1651. The light shining brightly through the window onto the figure's face creates a strong contrast with the deep dark shadows surrounding him. This illustrates the concept of chiaroscuro

Baroque art can often include highly dramatic scenes, strong contrasts, and symbolism. Dutch baroque can include these qualities, like the landscape below. Notice how the grand, exposed roots seem to have a spirit of their own. If you look close enough, you may even see what appears to be a skull hiding! What could this symbolize?

Sometimes, Dutch baroque also includes realism and scenes with less drama. The Dutch of the 17th century often portrayed everyday life in genre scenes.



Carel Dujardin
Dutch, 1626-1678
Landscape with Tree with Exposed Roots, 1659
Etching
Reading Public Museum

Transfer Goal FA3: Use societal, cultural, and historical contexts to develop appropriate interpretations of various artistic works

Enduring Understanding: People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

Essential questions: How does art help us understand the lives of people of different times, places, and cultures? How is art used to impact the views of a society? How does art preserve aspects of life?

What is the Dutch Golden Age?

Whenever you hear the term, "Golden Age," you begin to imagine people coming together to share new information and ideas. The Dutch Golden Age refers to a period of time in the Netherlands from about 1581-1672 when trade, art, and science were top ranking in the world! This time period also coincides with the second half of the Eighty Years' War. After the War, a newly established Dutch Republic emerged.

The Dutch began traveling and trading with far-away places and became experts at exploring the seas. Traders brought back fabrics like silk, exotic spices, and new ideas. It is important to note that traders from the Dutch East India Company were also responsible for enslaving many non-western peoples. As we reflect on history through a lens of inclusivity, we must understand that the title "Golden Age"

does not refer to the well-being of many individuals that were sold into the slave trade. Although --there were great advances in science and art in the Netherlands during the 1600s, the Golden Age does not refer to the life and treatment of all people. As we look at Dutch Golden Age Art, we will be referring to the art created during this time period.

Because of increased trade and wealth, more people could afford to commission art. Advancements in printing, etching and engraving made art and information available to common people instead of only wealthy people. Some artists and patrons believed that there was a hierarchy of genres in art. The hierarchy of artistic genres were as follows:

- History, allegories, popular religious subjects, and mythology.
- Portraiture
- Genre or scenes of everyday life
- Landscape
- Still life

We will be looking at examples of each of these categories as sources of inspiration for our journal prompts.

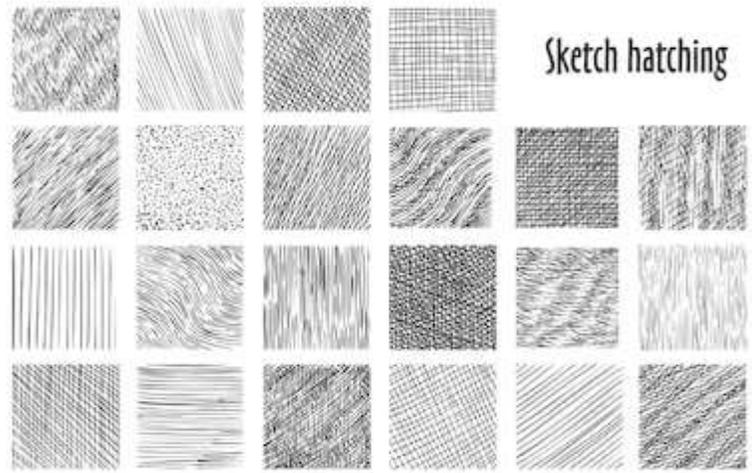


Map of 17th-century Europe
Can you find the Dutch Republic?

PREPARE a journal. Select a journal that inspires you to spend time with it. If you don't have a journal, gathering printer paper into a binder works just as well. Consider decorating the cover or finding a way to personalize it. Allow yourself to not only complete the prompts that reflect the lessons each week, but to also go off on journaling tangents! Allow your sketches to drift into notes and deeper thinking. Connect the lessons to your own world. What did the lesson remind you of? Did the art you were presented with spark your imagination in some way? This is your personal journal. You only have to share what you are comfortable sharing. When others share,

remember to be kind and to empathize with how it takes courage to share something as personal as a journal entry. Remember to date your entries. Write a short explanation to yourself to reflect on your process and to remind yourself of the art that inspired your entry. **We will virtually gather together weekly to share and view the work of others.**

MAKE: For your first entry, practice different types of hatching and mark making. Practice as many types of mark making that you can think of. Sketch an object or shape and use hatching to create shadows and texture. This is meant to be practice and to help you gain an understanding of methods used by etching artists.



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