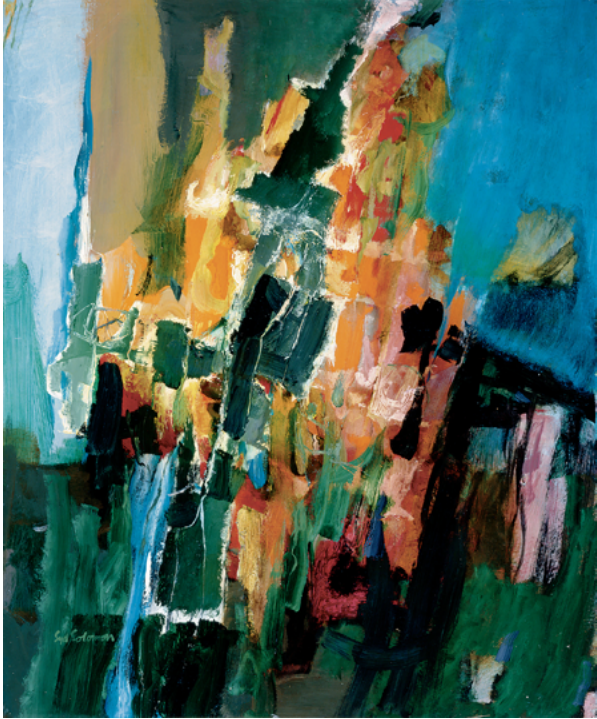


ABSTRACT LANDSCAPE PAINTING

LEARN FROM
HOME



Syd Solomon (American, 1917–2004), *Silent World* (detail), 1961. Liquitex on gesso panel, 58 3/16 × 48 5/16 × 1 15/16 in. Museum purchase, 1962. SN742

Today we are going to paint like the artist Syd Solomon and create our own abstract landscapes! He was inspired by the natural world and often took his canvases outside to paint by the bay. Many of his paintings have names that remind us of the ocean and the beach. This painting, *Silent World*, is named after his experience scuba diving, and what he saw underwater. Solomon's work is abstract, so it doesn't look exactly like real life, but we can recognize some elements, like light shining underwater, in his paintings.

When artists paint outdoors, we call that *plein air* painting. Some artists, such as Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, and Syd Solomon were famous for painting outside and drawing inspiration from the natural world. What will you be inspired by today? How will you show that on your canvas?

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

CANVAS BOARD OR WHITE PAPER, A PAINTBRUSH, PAINT, AND A PAPER TOWEL OR DROP CLOTH

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:
MODERATE

DIRECTIONS

1. Find a comfortable spot outside and set up your *plein air* painting station with your materials. If you don't have paint at home, try other household materials such as leftover coffee, or a few drops of food coloring in a glass of water.
2. Take in the landscape all around you. Ask yourself, what part of this view do you like best? How does it make you feel?
3. Choose the colors that will help you show that feeling—they do not have to be the same as in the landscape! Abstract artists use their imagination when creating art. Try creating your abstract landscape without color, using lines created by painting with leftover coffee!
4. Paint an abstract landscape using colors, line, and shapes. Abstract art doesn't look exactly like real life, so your painting shouldn't look picture perfect!

STANDARDS:

VA.3.C.1.1

VA.68.S.1.1

VA.912.S.3.2

**WE WOULD
LOVE TO SEE
WHAT YOU
CREATE!**

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!