

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Residential Reflections

INSTRUCTIONS

INSPIRATION ARTIST:



San Diego artist Duke Windsor with examples of his gold leaf artwork at his Ramona Library workshop
Photo by Harry Katcher

Duke Windsor (Born 1960, Texarkana, TX)

Duke Windsor is an artist who lives a colorful life! Windsor was born in Texarkana, Texas, in 1960, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a radio operator, combat illustrator, and drill instructor. After leaving the military, he worked as a freelance illustrator and competed as an amateur rodeo cowboy. Later he studied classical voice and performed professionally with the San Diego Opera Chorus. Windsor holds the rank of 4th Degree Black Belt in Kenpo, is an active singer-songwriter, guitar player, and solo performer. His professional art career has spanned over 15 years of museum exhibition design and installation exhibits, and for 7 years he was the founding Director of Exhibits at the U.S.S. Midway Museum. Duke Windsor works to bring positivity and knowledge throughout San Diego, with his

involvement in various professional art organizations empowering troubled youth through the arts and offering a wide range of artist development workshops to teach art to others. Besides his fine art

career, Windsor currently works as a CAD (Computer Aided Design) Engineering Manager at a Golf Simulator Company in Carlsbad.

Duke Windsor's award-winning paintings have been exhibited at juried solo shows, festivals, group exhibitions and corporate venues in San Diego and throughout the United States, and his artwork is held in private collections throughout the U.S. and Europe. Several of his incredible artworks have been on exhibit at the William D. Cannon Art Gallery here in Carlsbad!

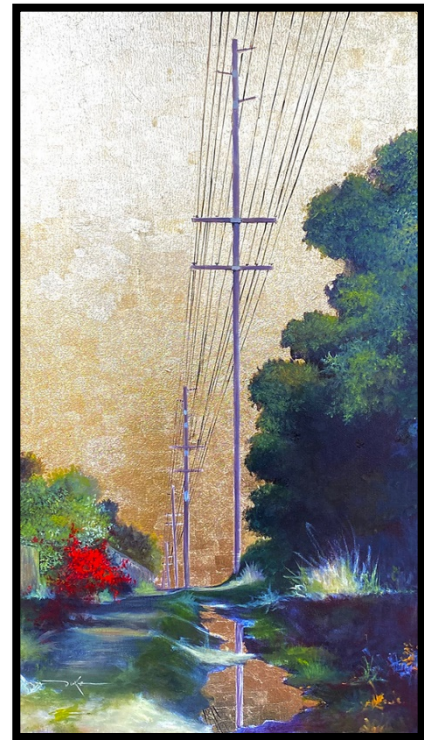
Though Windsor's artwork spans many mediums and subjects, we will focus on his *Golden Skies Series*, gilded artworks representing contemporary urbanscapes. In Windsor's paintings, reflections seen in puddles of water give further depth to the scene he's representing, inviting the viewer to look deeper into the artwork and creating a strong feeling of connection for the viewer to experience.

As written in the San Diego Tribune, Duke Windsor "*gives the streets we know the lightest dusting of magic. He gives us everyday San Diego scenes that glow with new possibility...by illuminating the ordinary, Windsor's art shows us what is extraordinary about the artist.*"

LESSON PLAN



Golden Skies No. 28 by Golden Skies Series
Acrylic
6 x 6



Golden Skies No. 117 by Golden Skies Series
Acrylic & applied gold leaf
48 x 24 x 1.5



Dallas & Jackson No. 3 by Golden Skies Series
Acrylic & applied gold leaf
24 x 24 x 1.5

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN

INSPIRATION IMAGES OF REFLECTIONS:



MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White Paper (any size)
- Pencil and Eraser
- Thin Black Marker or Black Pen (optional)
- Colored Pencils, Markers, Crayons (any coloring tools)

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Participants will use Duke Windsor's artwork as inspiration and look around their own environment to find a scene with a reflection in it. They will draw and color their urbanscape using materials from home.

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VOCABULARY:

Gilded: a decorative technique which consists of applying a very thin sheet of gold or other metal leaf to a surface resulting in a lustrous finish which draws the viewer's eye to the decoration and elevates the viewing experience

Reflection: the return of light waves from a surface, an image produced by or as if by a mirror

Urbanscapes: landscapes featuring towns or cities

Mirroring: the visual replication of something as if it is being seen as a mirror

Horizon Line: a horizontal line drawn across the picture which can be a temporary pencil line or morph into a permanent line where sky and land meet- it is always at eye level

Foreground: the area of the picture space nearest to the viewer

Middle Ground: the space naturally occurring between the foreground and the background

Background: the part of a scene or picture that is farthest from the viewer

Composition: the positioning and arrangement of elements within a pictorial space and work of art

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

Take a moment to look at Duke Windsor's paintings above.

1. What do you notice in each one? Do you see the reflections in the water on the ground?
2. Do the urbanscape scenes in Windsor's artwork look realistic? Would these scenes be something you'd see if you looked out your window?
3. Think about your environment, your neighborhood, places you go- where have you seen reflections before? Have you seen more reflections at certain times, for example, after it rains? Where might you see reflections every day?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Duke Windsor paints what he sees in the neighborhoods and streets around him here in San Diego. Windsor selects "everyday" urbanscapes and elevates them by making them the subjects of his beautiful paintings with great care and reverence.

Consider your own neighborhood: the streets, roads, parking lots, beach areas, baseball fields, parks, etc., wherever you spend your time. What places are important to you? Where have you seen reflections in water that caught your eye?

Look around and notice reflections throughout your environment- they can be big or small. It may be the sun and clouds reflecting in the ocean water at Ponto Beach, or it may be a small puddle left by a sprinkler in your backyard that reflects a beautiful tree. Look closely at the scene in front of you and try to take in all the details you see. If possible, set up a chair and do your drawing outside while looking at the scene. If that's not possible, take a photo of the reflection, or draw a quick sketch to help remind you what it looked like. See how the reflection in the water is a mirror image of what's above it. Understanding this mirroring will help you in your drawing.

Step 2:

Once you've decided on the scene you want to capture, use your pencil, and lightly draw it on your white paper. You decide if you want the artwork to be horizontal or vertical, whatever best emphasizes the area of reflection in your scene. Try to include the large shapes that you see, and that make the area recognizable to you (don't

LESSON PLAN

worry about tiny details). For example, Duke Windsor includes telephone lines and houses that really exist in the neighborhoods he is painting. Even though every single detail is not included in the scene, someone who lives there would recognize their neighborhood.

Think about the composition of your work of art, and where your reflection is. Is it the main image or largest area of your composition? Or is it a small part of the composition? You can see various examples of these concepts in Duke Windsor's work.

As you are drawing your urbanscape, consider beginning with a horizon line (**FIG.1**). Sketch your background, and your middle ground. Then sketch the outline for the area where your reflection will be (**FIG.2**). To draw the reflection in your foreground, you will flip your paper upside-down and draw the mirrored shapes and images that were in your middle ground into the space where the reflection is (**FIG.3A- shows upside down**). This is because the reflection will be a mirror of what is drawn above it. *Technique-* while you draw the reflection with your pencil in one hand, use your other hand and run your finger along the line you are looking at in the middle ground. Take your time with the creative drawing process and remember that the reflection doesn't have to be perfect. Lines and shapes are often distorted when they are reflected in water, just do your best (**FIG.3B- shows right side up**).

Step 3:

When you are happy with the pencil drawing of your scene, use your thin black marker or black pen to darken all your lines (**FIG.4**). If you don't have a black marker, no problem, just use your pencil to go over the light pencil drawing you created to darken the lines.

Step 4:

If you used a black marker or a pen, use your eraser to gently erase the light pencil lines that are showing.

Step 5:

Now that the images in your artwork are defined, use whatever coloring tools you have (colored pencils, markers or crayons) to bring your urbanscape to life. Notice how in a reflection the water takes on the color of the sky and the objects it is reflecting. Consider how color can give your artwork a feeling or a mood or even suggest a time of day or whether the air feels hot or cold. Perhaps you'll add some golden tones inspired by Duke Windsor's paintings. *Technique:* When you add color to an area or image in your middle ground or background, flip your paper upside down and add that color to the same area or image in your artwork's reflection (**FIG.5**).

Enjoy the process and continue adding color until you are pleased with your scene, and then your artwork is finished! (**FIG.6**)

POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Why did you select the scene that you did?
2. What feeling or mood does your artwork convey?
3. Now that you've looked for reflections in your environment, are you noticing them all around you?
4. What did you learn from creating this work of art?

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ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:

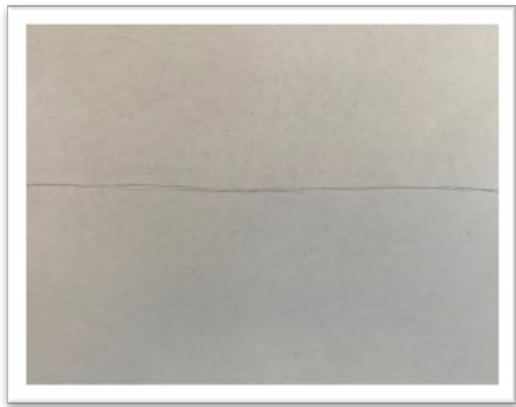


FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3A



FIG. 3B



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6

EXTRA FUN:

See Duke Windsor's artwork in person in our community!

CURRENT EXHIBITS:

Both exhibits are at the Oceanside Museum of Art
704 Pier Way, Oceanside, California 92054

<https://oma-online.org/windsor/>

1. [SOLO EXHIBITION: "NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE"](#)
November 20, 2021- March 13, 2022
2. [2022 Artist Alliance Biennial](#)
December 18, 2021- May 1, 2022

COMING IN OCTOBER, 2022:

Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, California 91941

1. [SOLO: SPARKS GALLERY](#)
10/23/2022 - 12/30/2022

OTHER ARTISTS TO CONSIDER:

- Julie Mehretu
- Lina Viktor
- Abi Salami