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22 Jun 2024 – 21 Jun 2026

A BIGGER VIEW

EDUCATION RESOURCE

Embark on a journey of epic proportions as you immerse yourself in these monumental landscapes.

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These works of art are on long term loan from the National Gallery of Australia with support from the Australian Government as part of Sharing the National Collection. Share #artacrossaustralia

Artwork images (top to bottom): Imants Tillers, *Mount Analogue* 1985, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra, purchased 1987 Courtesy of the artist. David Hockney, *A Bigger Grand Canyon* 1998, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra, purchased with the assistance of Kerry Stokes, Carol and Tony Berg and the O'Reilly family 1999 © David Hockney.

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Installation View – *A Bigger View*: Eugene von Guérard *North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko*, 1863, Imants Tillers *Mount Analogue*, 1985, Bridget Riley *Veld*, 1971
This work of art is on long term loan from the National Gallery of Australia with support from the Australian Government as part of Sharing the National Collection. #artacrossaustralia

Sharing the National Collection is a Federal Government supported initiative that aims to share the public visibility and engagement of the National Gallery of Australia's art collection. The NGA has the most valuable collection of art in Australia, with over 155,000 artworks, including the worlds largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. *Sharing the National Collection* is an initiative under the National Cultural Policy – *Revive* released in 2023.

HOTA Gallery is excited to welcome NGA Collection works, that will be on exhibition between 2024 – 2026 alongside some noteworthy pieces from HOTA's own Gallery Collection.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A Bigger View brings together an exciting array of landscape artworks, of epic scale, by leading national and international artists. The exhibition highlights diverse approaches to contemporary landscape masterpieces, conveying a series of perspectives. The artworks open conversations around contemporary art, differing visions of the world around us, and about the politics and possibilities of landscape painting.

The exhibition opens students to critical and creative thinking about landscapes, and approaches to contemporary art.

PART 2

This resource is part 2 of a 4-part series that features engaging education insights into inquiry and learning around the exhibition artworks, collections management and touring. We're delighted to share this special exhibition with you. Please see the Education Resources page on our website for Part 1.

IN THIS EDITION, WE'LL EXPLORE;

- What is a landscape artwork, and why are they a common subject for art?
- What is contemporary landscape art?
- What is scale and perspective in landscape art?

ARTIST FEATURE

Imants Tillers

Eugene von Guérard

CURRICULUM LINKS

Visual Arts F-10: Exploring & responding, Developing practices and skills, Creating and making, Presenting and performing

Visual Arts 11 & 12: Unit 1: Art as lens, Unit 2: Art as code, Unit 3: Art as knowledge, Unit 4: Art as alternate

Visual Arts in Practice 11 & 12: Unit Option A: Looking Inwards (Self), Unit Option B: Looking Outward (Others)

HASS F-6: History, Geography, Questioning and researching, Interpreting, analysing and evaluating, Communicating

Social & Community Studies 11 & 12: Unit Option F: Arts & Identity

General Capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding, Personal and Social Capability, Literacy

WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE ARTWORK, AND WHY ARE THEY A COMMON SUBJECT FOR ART?

Landscape artworks depict natural scenery, such as mountains, valleys, bodies of water, fields, forests, and coasts. They can also include elements like the sky, weather, and human-made structures or figures. Here are some reasons why landscapes are such a popular subject for artists.

Landscapes are a universal theme that resonates with people across cultures and time periods. Nature evokes emotions and memories, making landscapes relatable to a wide audience.

The natural world offers a wealth of visual possibilities, from dramatic mountain ranges to serene seascapes. Artists are drawn to the beauty and diversity of nature.

Landscapes often hold cultural and historical significance. They can represent national identity, spiritual beliefs, or personal experiences.

Depicting landscapes can be a technical challenge, requiring skill in perspective, composition, and colour theory. Artists enjoy showcasing their technical abilities through landscape art.

Creating or viewing landscape art can have a calming and restorative effect. It can connect us to nature and provide a sense of peace and tranquillity.



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WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE ART?

Contemporary landscape art has evolved beyond traditional representations of nature. Artists now explore complex themes like environmental impact, cultural identity, and the changing relationship between humans and the natural world. This can be seen through diverse mediums like photography, video, installation, and digital art. Some artists utilise natural materials or intervene directly in landscapes, blurring the lines between art and nature.

Others employ abstraction, conceptual approaches, or incorporate found objects to challenge traditional notions of landscape painting. These artists take liberties to experiment with colour, shape, perspective, and more, shaping our experience of place and imbuing new meaning, aiming to provoke thought and engage with the world around us.

LOOKING AT SCALE AND PERSPECTIVE IN LANDSCAPE ART

Landscape art often aims to create a sense of depth, distance, and realism. Two key techniques used to achieve this are scale and perspective.

Scale refers to the relative size of objects within a composition. By varying the size of elements, artists can suggest their proximity to the viewer. For example, a large tree in the foreground might dwarf a distant mountain range, emphasising the viewer's position within the landscape.

Perspective is the technique of representing three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface. Linear perspective, for instance, employs converging lines to create the illusion of depth, making distant objects appear smaller and less detailed. By skilfully manipulating scale and perspective, artists can transport viewers into immersive and evocative landscapes.



MEET THE ARTIST - IMANTS TILLERS

Imants Tillers is a renowned Australian contemporary artist known for his complex and layered artworks.

His work often explores themes of cultural identity, history, and the relationship between art and society. Tillers' signature style involves juxtaposing diverse imagery and text, drawing from a wide range of sources including art history, literature, and popular culture. His paintings are often characterized by their intricate compositions and rich visual textures, inviting viewers to engage with multiple layers of meaning.

Imants Tillers *Mount Analogue*, 1985
oil, oil stick and synthetic polymer paint
279 (H)x571 (W)cm

National Gallery of Australia, Kamberra/Canberra. Purchased 1987

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MEET THE WORK

Imants Tillers' *Mount Analogue* (1985) is a significant post-modern artwork that reimagines the Australian landscape. By appropriating and recontextualizing Eugene von Guerard's 1863 painting, *North-East view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko*, Tillers challenges traditional notions of landscape representation.

A defining feature of *Mount Analogue* (1985) is its monumental size. This large-scale format, combined with Tillers' distinctive gridded canvas board system, forms a fragmented and abstracted approach. The grid not only references the digital age but also emphasizes the constructed nature of both the original painting and Tillers' reinterpretation. Through his approach to composition, Tillers invites viewers to consider the role of the artist as both creator and interpreter. The painting's bold colours, distinctive brushwork, and layered imagery, as well as its scale, contribute to its complexity and wonder, much like the real life landscape itself.

RESPONDING

- What is the significance of the title *Mount Analogue* (1985)? How does it relate to the artwork and its themes?
- How does Tillers' use of the gridded canvas board system contribute to the overall aesthetic and meaning of the work?
- In what ways does *Mount Analogue* (1985) challenge traditional notions of landscape painting?
- Study the works of contemporary artists like Imants Tillers, David Hockney, and Andy Goldsworthy.
- Consider how they challenge traditional notions of landscape painting through their use of materials, techniques, and concepts.

MAKING

This activity will explore the idea of appropriation and post modernism in art.

Taking inspiration from the work *Mount Analogue* (1985), explain the concept of an 'analogue' as a representation or model of something else. Explain how the grid fragments the image and creates a sense of abstraction. Discuss how Tillers' work moves away from traditional realism and towards a more subjective and experimental approach. Highlight the use of bold colours, expressive brushwork, and layered imagery.

The following can be approached as a class mural or collaborative artwork.

1. Sketching and Planning

Use grid paper to sketch out a composition, inspired by Tillers' work or other contemporary landscape artists. Consider using a mix of realistic and abstract elements. Experiment with different perspectives and viewpoints.

2. Painting Technique

Use bold, expressive brushstrokes to create a sense of energy and movement. Layer colours to create depth and complexity.

3. Moving to Canvas

Use a grid to divide the canvas into sections. Paint within each section, either adhering to the grid or breaking it up, but paying attention to composition.

4. Reflection

Consider how the artwork(s) challenge traditional notions of landscape painting.

MATHS LINK

Imants Tillers' *Mount Analogue* (1985) is a strong example of perspective and proportion in visual art. These are maths concepts that artists, like Tillers, have used for centuries to create realistic and immersive images. Consider this artwork, as well as others by looking at perspective and proportion, and then apply this to your own landscape artwork.

Perspective:

- **One-Point Perspective:**

This is a common technique where parallel lines converge at a single vanishing point on the horizon. This creates the illusion of depth.

- **Two-Point Perspective:**

In this technique, two sets of parallel lines converge at two different vanishing points. This is often used to depict buildings and urban landscapes.

Proportion:

- Proportion refers to the size relationship between different parts of an image.
- In *Mount Analogue* (1985), Tillers uses proportion to create a sense of scale and distance. For example, objects in the foreground are larger than those in the background.

MEET THE ARTIST EUGENE VON GUÉRARD

Eugene von Guerard was a significant 19th-century landscape painter who emigrated from Austria to Australia. Renowned for his meticulous and detailed style, he captured the dramatic beauty of the Australian landscape, often depicting remote and pristine locations. His work played a crucial role in shaping European perceptions of Australia and contributed to the development of a distinctive Australian artistic identity. Von Guerard's paintings are celebrated for their technical skill, romantic aesthetic, and historical significance.

MEET THE WORK

North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko (1863) is a significant landscape painting by Eugene von Guérard. It offers a panoramic vista of the Australian Alps, centered on the summit of Mount Kosciusko, Australia's highest peak. The painting captures the rugged terrain, snow-capped peaks, and expansive valleys, showcasing the raw beauty of the Australian wilderness.

Created in 1863, following von Guérard's expedition to the region, this work exemplifies his skill in capturing the immense scale and intricate details of the landscape. The painting's meticulous detail, from the texture of the snow to the distant mountain ranges, conveys a sense of the awe-inspiring power of nature. The use of light and shadow further enhances the drama of the scene, highlighting the contrast between the bright, snow-covered peaks and the darker, shadowed valleys. This work is a testament to von Guérard's mastery of landscape painting and his ability to capture the spirit of the Australian wilderness.

Eugene von Guérard *North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko*, 1863

oil on canvas

66.5(H)x116.8(W)

National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra. Purchased 1973

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A BIGGER VIEW



RESPONDING

- How did von Guérard's work contribute to Australia's artistic identity?
- What techniques did von Guérard use to capture the landscape's details?
- How does the painting convey the scale and power of the Australian Alps?
- How did von Guérard's European background influence his interpretation of the Australian landscape?
- What were the challenges and opportunities faced by artists like von Guérard in exploring and documenting the Australian wilderness?
- How did the painting contribute to the growing interest in exploring and preserving the Australian environment?
- What is the role of landscape painting in shaping national identity and cultural heritage?
- How does *North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko* (1863), compare to other 19th-century landscape paintings, both Australian and European?

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MAKING | DIGITAL LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION

Using a digital drawing software/ application and a reference image of a landscape, complete the following artmaking processes.

1. Sketching the Landscape

- Use a soft brush to sketch the basic outline of the landscape, paying attention to the composition and perspective.
- Consider the horizon line, foreground, middle ground, and background.

2. Blocking in colours

- Use large, flat brushes to block in the base colours for the sky, land, and water.
- Choose a limited colour palette to create a harmonious and unified composition.
- Explore techniques like blending, layering, and masking to create complex effects.

3. Adding Depth with Light and Shadow

- **Light Source**
Determine the direction of the light source and use it to cast shadows.
- **Shadows**
Use darker shades of the base colours to create shadows.
- **Highlights**
Use lighter shades to create highlights.

4. Creating Texture

- Use different brush strokes and textures to create the illusion of different surfaces (e.g., rough rock, smooth water, grassy fields).
- Experiment with blending modes to create subtle effects.

5. Adding Atmosphere

- Use atmospheric perspective to create a sense of distance.
- Soften the details in the background and increase the contrast in the foreground.
- Add fog, mist, or haze to create a more dramatic atmosphere.

6. Final Touches

- Add details like trees, rocks, and other objects.
- Adjust the colour balance and contrast to enhance the overall mood of the painting.

Write a Descriptive Poem

Landscape artworks can be a rich stimulus and source of inspiration for creating a poem.

Select a landscape that inspires you, such as a mountain range, a forest, or a beach. Describe the landscape using vivid sensory details. What does it look like, sound like, smell like, feel like? Try to convey the emotions that the landscape evokes in you. Is it peaceful, exciting, or awe-inspiring?

Use metaphors, similes, and personification to create vivid imagery. Consider the structure of your poem. Will it be a free verse poem, a sonnet, or a haiku?



CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES WORKSHOP

Dive even deeper by booking your students into our [New Terrain: Contemporary Landscapes workshop](#) delivered by our exceptional team of Artist Educators.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

From the literal to the abstract, scenic landscapes or booming skylines, artworks about place allow us to extend the moment and reimagine new, familiar and unknown worlds. During this workshop, students will respond to Collection works that speak to the past, present and future landscapes of the Gold Coast and wider Australia.

Inspired by touring works in the NGA 'sharing the National Collection' exhibition, as well as HOTA Collection works, students will explore qualities of contemporary art as they develop their own depiction of place and storytelling.

LINKS TO CURRICULUM:

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General Capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding, Personal and Social Capability, Literacy

GRADES P-12

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We hope you have enjoyed part 2 of the A Bigger View education resource. Stay tuned for part 3 shortly. We'd love to see your student's work. Feel free to email any samples to education@hota.com.au.