



Hindsight

What's left behind in a rear-view mirror offers a lesson on one-point perspective.

(art + science)

An essential part of good drawing is a firm understanding of how to depict three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. The first and simplest type of perspective drawing is called "one-point perspective." With one-point perspective, only one direction or "vanishing point" is needed because the sides of all objects within the composition are moving away from us. After its discovery, circa 1423, most artists only understood how to use one vanishing point near the center of their picture, and it was not for several more centuries that the understanding and use of more than one vanishing point was common.

One-point perspective is still used today, primarily because it is so easy. Using the example of a rear-view mirror, what you are seeing consists entirely of something moving into the distance. Because the road is going one direction away from us, the two edges or sides of the road will be pointing toward just the one vanishing point.

Perspective can also be seen as the way we look at something or the way we feel about life in general. In this lesson plan, we learn about perspective from an artistic standpoint. Let's combine that with perspective concerning what is behind us, or what we have seen in our rear-view mirror of life.

GRADES 3-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



Materials (required)

Crescent Perfect Mount Self-Adhesive Mounting Board, Black, 11" x 14", double thick (23214-2005); share one across class

Mirror Boards, Package of 10, Silver, 8-1/2" x 11" (12486-9331); share two packages across class

Blick Studio Markers, Set of 12 (22148-1012); share three sets across class

Grafix Clear Acetate Sheets, .005", 20" x 25" (55501-1001); share two sheets across class

Creativity Street Wood Spools, Package of 60 (60444-1060); share one package across class

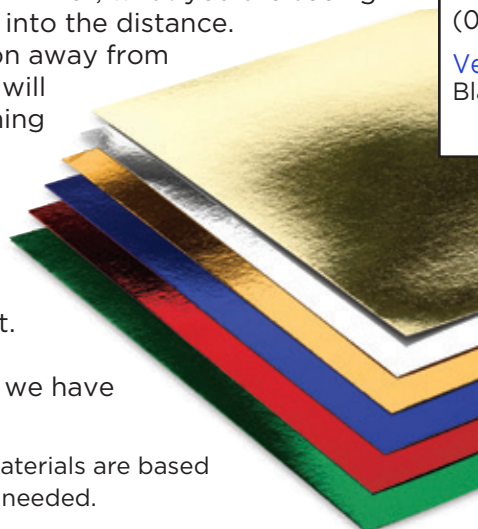
Blick Masking Tape, White, 1/2", 60 yds (24149-1012); share one roll across class

Optional Materials

Craft Felt, Kelly Green, 9" x 12" (63201-7363)

Blick Studio Acrylics, Titanium White, 4 oz (01637-1020)

Velcro Sticky Back Fasteners, Tape Roll, Black (57319-2040)

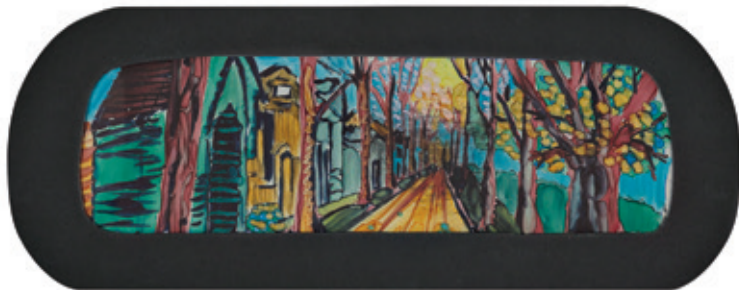


Preparation

- Discuss one-point perspective.
- Cut 32" x 40" Perfect Mount Board into 4" x 10" pieces (will result in 32 pieces).
- Cut acetate sheet into 4" x 10" pieces (will result in 24 pieces.)
- Cut mirror board pieces in half length-wise.

Process

1. Cut a paper template of a rear-view mirror frame that will fit within a 4" x 10" area. Fold the paper to get a symmetrical shape. Trace onto Perfect Mount Board and cut out using scissors or a craft knife. Do not remove the adhesive backing.
2. Trace the interior and exterior shape of the rear-view mirror frame onto acetate. Using permanent markers, draw a scene of whatever is seen in the rear-view mirror within this space using one-point perspective (or one vanishing point). Placing the acetate on a sheet of white paper will help make the drawing more visible. When using permanent markers on film, they can often be blended with a cotton swab. The addition of a small amount of rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer on a cotton swab also thins and blends the marker.
3. When the marker drawing is complete and dry, place it over the mirror board piece and hinge it at the top with masking tape. Trim to fit the outer edge of the black board in the shape of a rear-view mirror. Peel the adhesive off the back of the board and affix the drawing to the back.
4. Glue a wooden spool to the back of the rear-view mirror frame at the center toward the top. Paint the spool black if desired. Use Velcro to display the rear-view mirror on a wall.



Options

Add a pine tree air freshener! First invented in 1952 by chemist Julius Samann, who used oils from evergreen trees to freshen cars, the freshener quickly became a cultural icon. Cut green felt into an evergreen shape, cut a small hole, and hang it from the rear-view mirror! Paint an area with white acrylic paint, allow the paint to dry, then use a marker to add a phrase.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Connecting

Anchor Standard #10

Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



Step 1: Cut a rear-view mirror "frame" out of double thick adhesive mount board.



Step 2: Using markers, create a one-point perspective drawing on acetate



Step 3: Tape the mirror board behind the acetate and place both in the rear-view mirror. Glue a wooden spool to the back, and embellish with a "car freshener."