

Let's Explore Close Looking

Key Question: What is going on in this picture?

Key Vocabulary:

- **Close Looking**—to spend time looking at one thing (a work of art) to help you see more than you would at first glance.
- **Observation**—Something you notice after close looking

Before we get started, let's explore what it means to really look at art. Watch this reading of the book The Museum, by Susan Verde.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHP4VYkEjHU>

Q: What will help me look at art?

A: Everything! I can use my body, my memories, even my feelings!

Every piece of art can be seen in a million different ways.

Now, Let's look at 3 pieces of art together.

When you look at each piece of art play this game with your grown-up!

First, as soon as you click to the picture, shout out the first thing you see! It could be a color, a shape, a person, an object—whatever you see first!

Next, set a timer for 30 seconds and look at the picture silently for the whole time. At the end of 30 seconds share with your grown-up one other thing that you notice in the picture.

Last, set a timer for 2 minutes (it's going to feel REALLY long but try and look for the full 2 minutes) and look at the picture silently. Let your eyes move around the whole painting and work on picking out new details you might not have seen at first. Share what you find.

If you are doing this alone, write down the things you find. Here's an example for the picture on the right:

1. Immediate response: **Boy**
2. 30-second response: **Lamppost**
3. 2-minute response: **Windmill**



Hans Brinker, Frank Earle Schoonover

La Bella Mano, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti



1. What do you see as soon as you look at this painting?
2. What do you see after looking for 30 seconds?
3. What do you see after looking for 2 minutes?

BONUS—Can you move your body to be like something in this picture like the girl does in the book?

GREAT JOB, let's look at the next one!

Which Shall be Captain?, by Howard Pyle



1. What do you see as soon as you look at this painting?
2. What do you see after looking for 30 seconds?
3. What do you see after looking for 2 minutes?

BONUS—Can you move your body to be like something in this picture like the girl does in the book?

GREAT JOB, let's look at the next one!

March, by Charles Burchfield



1. What do you see as soon as you look at this painting?
2. What do you see after looking for 30 seconds?
3. What do you see after looking for 2 minutes?

BONUS—Can you move your body to be like something in this picture like the girl does in the book?

ART APPLICATION

Now that we've found lots of exciting discoveries in art and learned how looking can help us experience art, let's make a work of art ourselves!

Close Looking Seascape with Sailboat



Loosely inspired by *March*, by Charles Burchfield

When I looked closely at *March*, by Charles Burchfield, one of the many details I observed was the light from the sun's rays shining out from behind the clouds. In this art project you will make a seascape, including lots of details for the viewer to observe.

Materials:

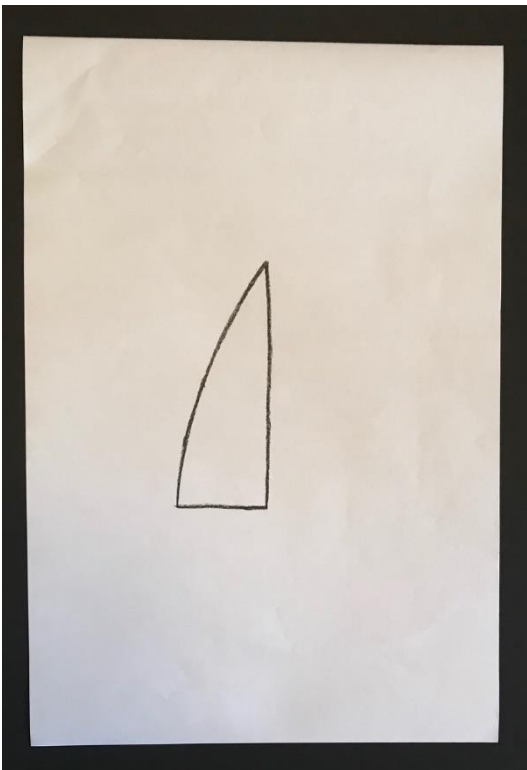
White paper, any size

Crayons

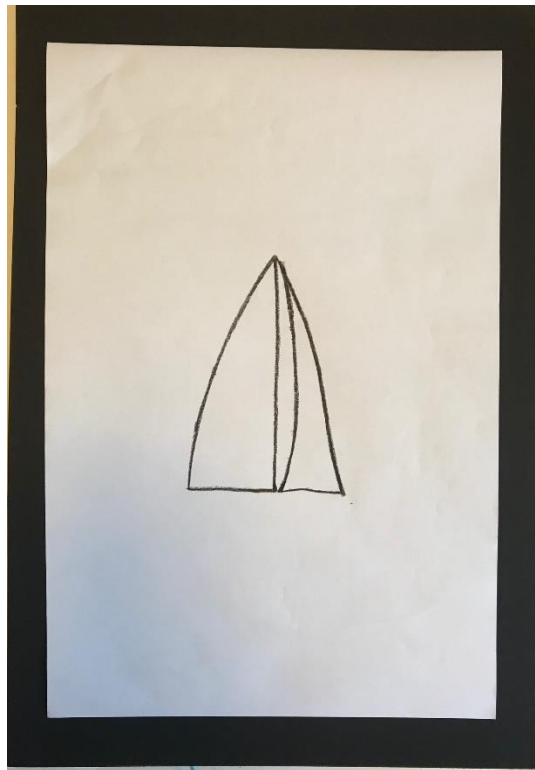
Watercolor set

Paintbrush and water

Materials note: This project was done as watercolor resist; however, you can do this with your favorite medium, crayon, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, or even pen and/or pencil



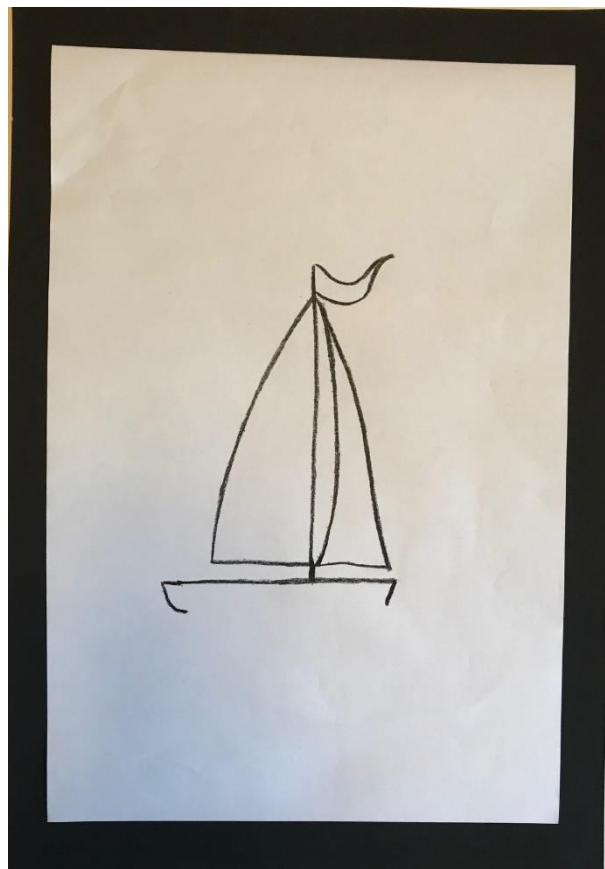
Draw a triangle with a curve on the left side



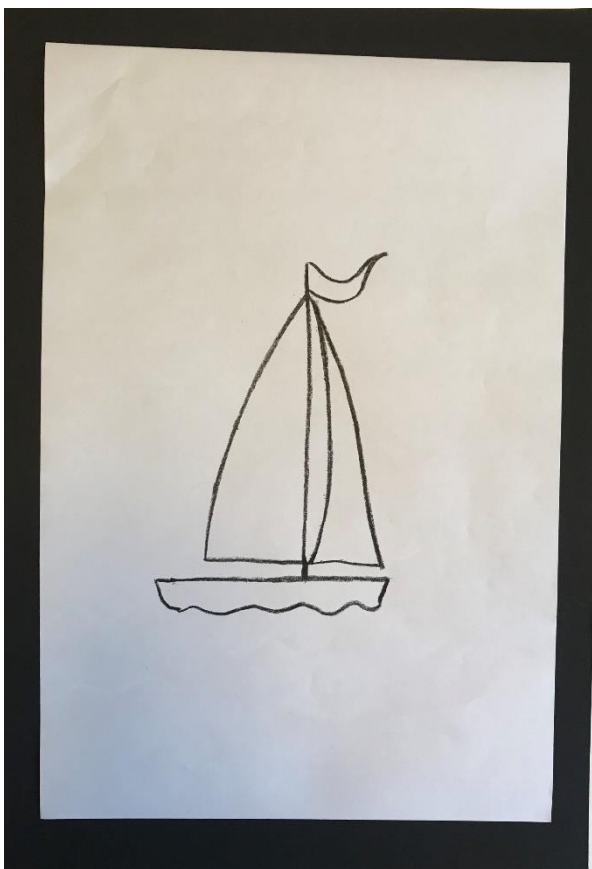
Draw a skinny triangle next to it that looks like a wizard's hat



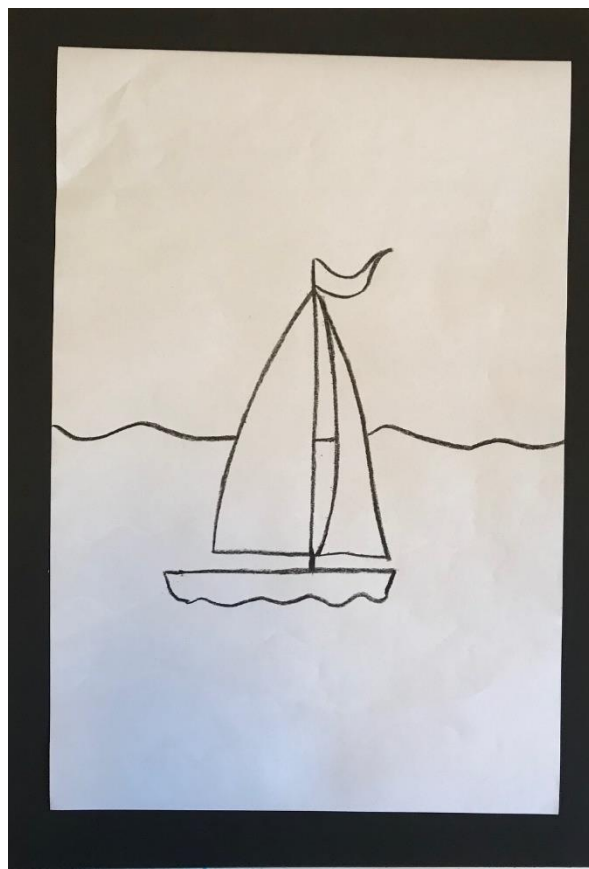
Draw a short straight line at the top and bottom of the bigger triangle, and a flag at the top



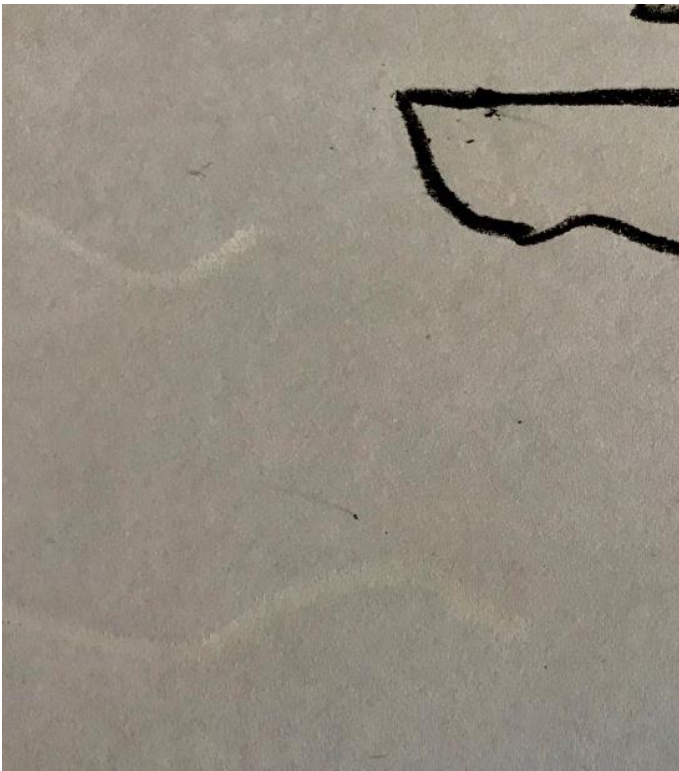
Draw a straight horizontal line below the sails, add an angled line on the right, and curve on the left



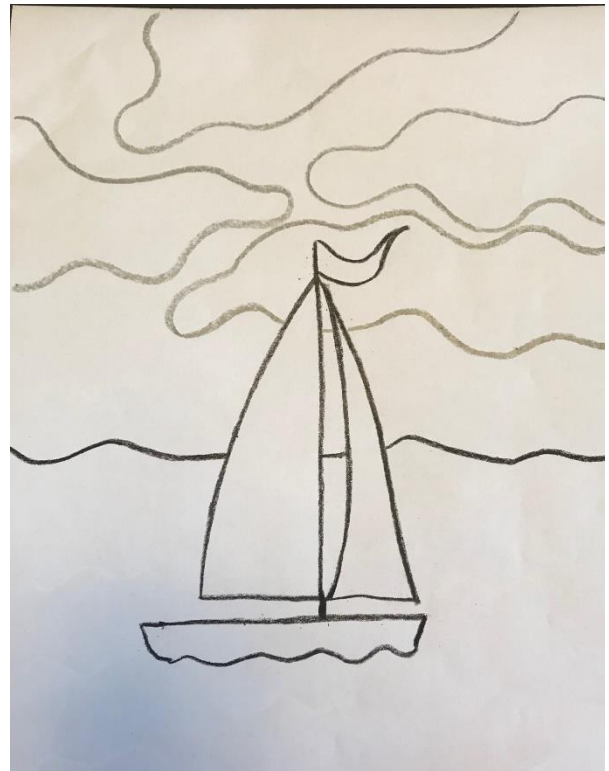
Add a curving line on the bottom



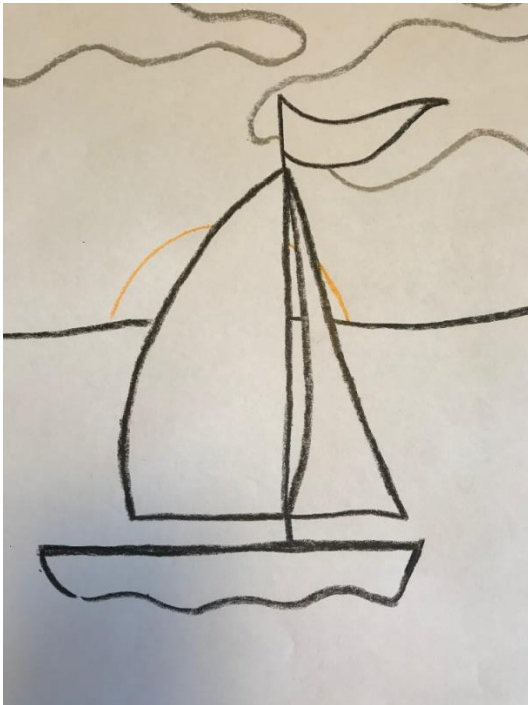
Add a horizon line where the ocean meets the sky



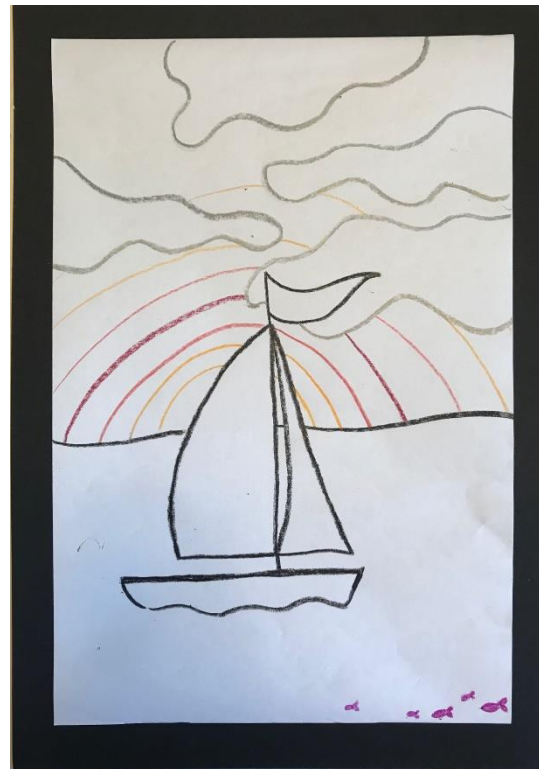
Option- Add white waves with crayon



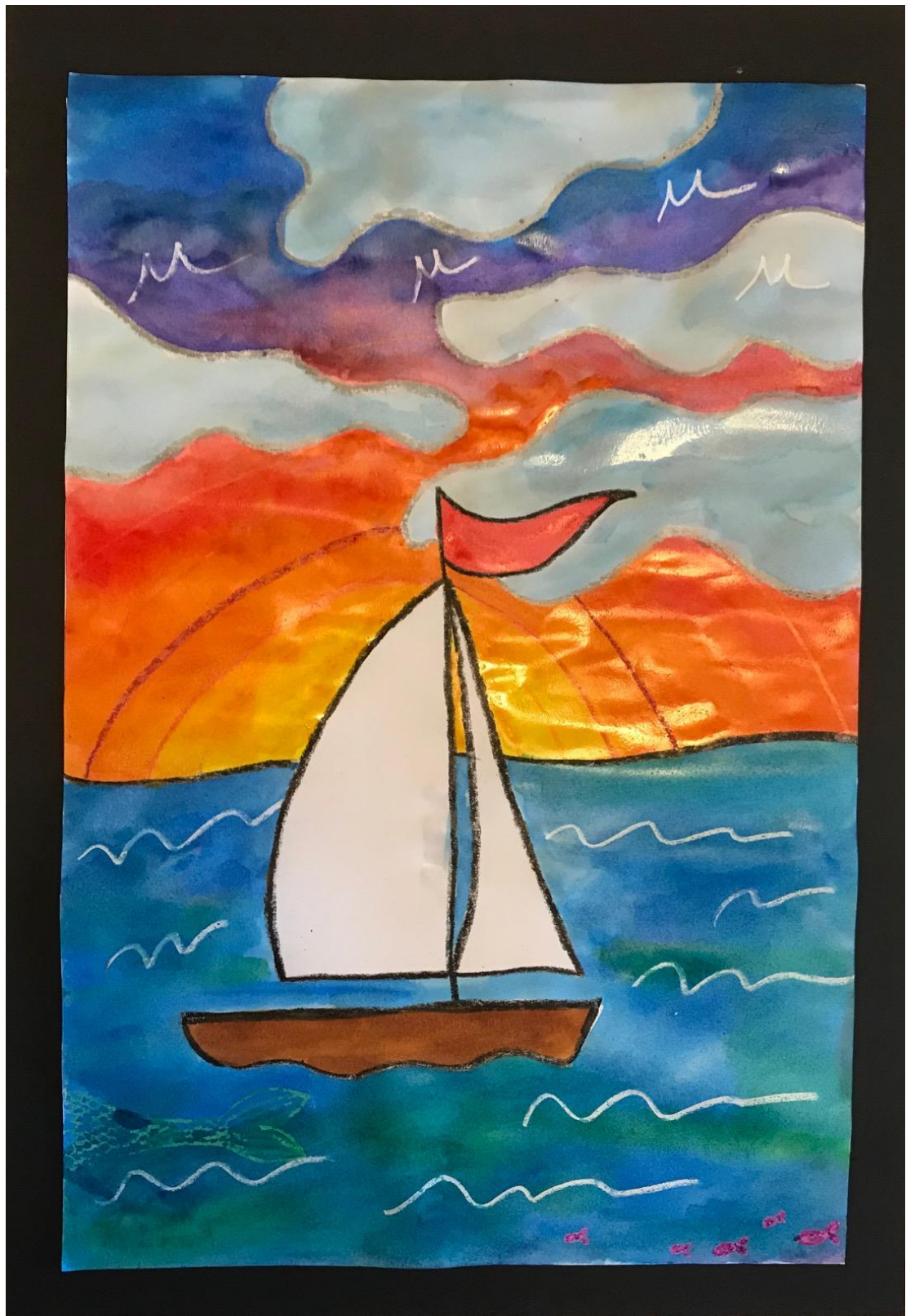
Add cloud shapes, make sure to make your lines go behind the sails!



If you like, draw an arch behind the sails, the setting sun



Add as many details as you like, birds in the sky, sea monsters, fish, a message in a bottle, you decide!



If you are adding watercolor, make it as creative as you like, use realistic colors, or use lots of imagination!

Have Fun!