

RAMAYANA

studio art project / lesson plan

supply list

- HP watercolor paper
- watercolors; inks; magic markers; colored pencils
- fancy decorative papers
- waterproof fine point black pens like Staedtler Pigment liners
- glue sticks
- scissors
- white gel pens

objectives

- students will learn about the Ramayana and the narrative painting style particular to Indian miniatures
- students will create a visual story with 2-3 parts by framing scenes in architectural forms and landscapes
- students will learn creative ways to draw complex scenes by using simplified shapes and by “hiding” difficult figures in architecture and foliage



Tell a Simple Story in Indian Miniature Style

The Ramayana is the epic tale of Prince Rama’s quest to rescue his beloved wife Sita from the almost impossible to kill Ravana. The story is complex and includes the denial of Rama’s rightful claim to the throne; exile; treacherous females; a faithful brother; monkey armies; a golden deer and a cast of thousands.

An interesting aspect of Indian painting is that it can show several scenes in one work of art and often shows the same character more than once. When you visit the exhibition you will notice that scenes are sectioned off or framed by using color fields, architectural elements and landscapes. At the top of some paintings there is instruction on how to “read” the painting by telling where to start looking. Mostly, counter-clockwise.



“Tell the Whole Story
from Beginning to End”

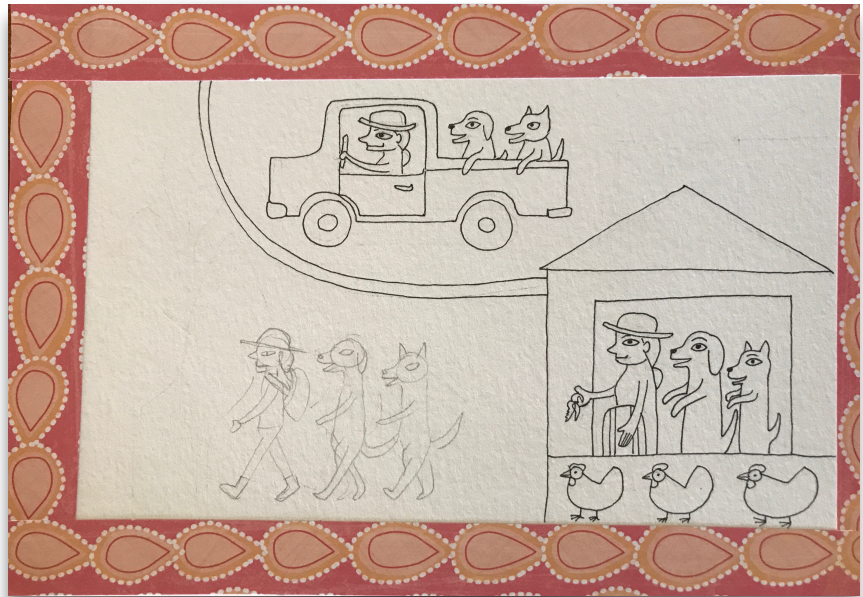
THE RAMAYANA IN INDIAN PAINTING

JANUARY 13 – MAY 20, 2018

studio

- have at least two sections and make one be some kind of building
- draw in pencil and make sure each scene is in a section
- you can create decorative borders to separate sections
- you can add a fancy paper border at the beginning or the end of the project.
- after you have drawn all your scenes you are ready to ink over the pencil lines. Erase all the pencil before you add color.
- fill in backgrounds behind figures and elements with ink, watercolor, markers or colored pencils. Then color in the figures.
- Go back over the ink lines if necessary to make the artwork nice and crisp. Indian miniatures are very precise and clear.
- White gel pens are great to have on hand: wavy lines over blue makes great water, and a few lines over any clothing makes a “sheer” looking layer. They also come in handy for making eyes white again in case paint filled them.
- You can use origami or any decorative paper to create trees, shrubs, gardens, clothing and architectural decorations. The scale must be very small.

When students are presented with complex Indian miniature paintings and are asked to make one of their own they are often overwhelmed with the complexity of the imagery and the amount of figures presented. This lesson plan offers a way to break it down into a manageable and inspiring project.



Have the students think of a story they can tell. The story above is about a lady who has takes her dogs on a hike in the forest. You know from the drawing this lady also has some chickens. Notice how there are three scenes in one picture. It begins on the bottom right where she gets a backpack and they prepare to leave the house. At the top, they are driving in a pick-up truck to the forest and then, on the bottom left, they have arrived and are hiking in the forest. Some tips for composition:

- Use architecture for one of the scenes. It’s a great way to show only part of the figures. The truck serves the same function only the heads and torsos are needed to tell the story.
- Find a way to keep the characters consistent. The lady wears a hat in every scene. The dogs look the same.
- Remember that animals can be drawn as they actually are, or be given the attributes of a human being.
- In the forest section an area has been left blank so the trees can be created with flowery origami paper.