



CONFEDERATION
CENTRE OF THE ARTS

arts
education

**ART
CLASS**
FROM HOME

Explore the elements of art while learning more about artworks in the Confederation Centre Art Gallery's permanent collection. This new program provides weekly instructional art activities inspired by artworks from the collection. These activities are similar to those taught in the gallery's regular education programs and can be completed with basic materials that you probably already have at home!

Feedback and questions can be sent to Evan Furness, our visual arts educator at efurness@confederationcentre.com.

No. 10 | Monochrome Stories - Narrative Painting and Subjective Colour



John Fox (1927-2008)

The Quebec Conference, 1964

oil on canvas, 213.7 x 366 cm

Commissioned with funds donated by the J.W. McConnell Foundation

CAG 64.28



Activity Description

John Fox's artwork, *The Quebec Conference*, uses a split composition to tell a story. The painting is made up of three panels, each showing a different part of a larger narrative. The separate sections are unified by the exclusive use of the colour blue. For this activity you will create either a drawing or a painting with multiple panels that tell a story using only one colour.

Definitions

Monochromatic: Using only one colour, including its tints and shades.

Tint: A colour lightened by adding white to it.

Shade: A colour darkened by adding black to it.

Subjective Colour: Colours that are chosen not for their closeness to reality but to represent a meaning or feeling.

Example





Materials

1. Something to paint or draw on (canvas or paper)
2. Colours (pencil crayons or paint)

Instructions

Step 1. Come up with a story to tell. It could be something that you have experienced or it might be something made up. Writing down the story will help you with the next steps.

Step 2. Choose two or three key moments from the story. Usually stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end so you can start by thinking about what those would be.

Step 3. Think about where your story takes place and what it is about. What mood do you think best describes it? Colours are usually associated with emotions so think about what colour best represents your story. For example:

Yellow = Happiness

Blue = Sadness

Red = Anger

Step 4. Get your canvas or paper. Divide it into the number of sections that you want to have.

Step 5. Illustrate your story using your chosen colour. If you are using paint, it is best to sketch out your images in pencil beforehand.

Step 6. You are done! Show your painting to someone and tell them the story behind it.

When you finish your artwork consider sharing it on social media! Be sure to tag the Confederation Centre (@confedcentre) and use the hashtag #ccagartclass!