

The Art of Landscape:
A Four-Season Art Exploration
of Olmsted's Franklin Park



Workshop I: Drawing from Observation

Season: Fall

Medium: Colored pencil

Focus: Drawing from observation

Description: Artists used colored pencils and powers of observation to do a focused, close-up drawing of a single element in the landscape (e.g. pinecone, leaf, branch).

Big idea: The selection and arrangements of individual elements affect the character of the landscape. Close-up drawing from observation captures the characteristics of a single element, inviting the artist to consider the role it plays in defining the larger sense of place.



The Wonder Leaf, October 2006

Workshop II: Framing a View/Photography

Season: Winter

Medium: Photography

Focus: Composition

Description: Artists used cameras and black & white film to capture different views of the landscape. They focused on what to include/exclude in the photograph, as well as where to place the features in the landscape in the photograph (e.g. foreground, background, off-center). Students took photos at Scarboro Pond, then made contact sheets and printed photographs at Massachusetts College of Art.

Big idea: A photograph tells a story. How you frame a view and what you choose to include/exclude reveals intent and communicates something about your experience of place.



Monkey Tree, January 2007

Workshop III: Exploring Color and Form

Season: Spring

Medium: Tempera paint

Focus: Light, shadow, color

Description: Artists focused on structures in the landscape. They mixed colors to create tertiary colors and tints and shades in the landscape. They learned that the placement of the structure on the page and the treatment of the space surrounding the structure affect the composition.

Big idea: The magic of an early spring landscape can be communicated through colorful paintings that are at-once disciplined and imaginative.



The Bridge, May 2007

Workshop IV: Using Layers and Shapes

Season: Summer

Medium: Paper

Focus: Depth

Description: Artists used a variety of shapes (geometric and organic) to capture a view of the landscape; they overlapped shapes to create a sense of space (foreground, midground, background).

Big idea: The layering of elements – in landscape and in collage-making – creates a sense of mystery, wonder, and depth of space.



The Bridge, June 2007

Exhibition: June 12-30, 2007

Opening: June 14

Description: Boston Public School 3rd graders took center stage at the opening reception for an exhibition of their artwork at Massachusetts College of Art. The exhibit – featuring more than 70 pieces in colored pencil, black and white photography, tempera paint, and collage – encouraged the 200+ exhibit goers to get out and explore the seasonal wonder of parks in their communities.

