Pearl at Home

This art project is designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 10 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

STYLIZE WITH LINE

Share your artwork with us on social media! Tag @pearlfinchermfa, and use #pearlathome

6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlmfa.org
MATERIALS

• Mixed media paper, watercolor paper, canvas board, or stretched canvas
• Acrylic, tempera, gouache, or watercolor paint
• Paint palette   • Paintbrushes   • Paper towels
• Thin black Sharpie marker   • Wide black Sharpie marker
• Reference photos of your subject(s) of choice

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Norval Morrisseau (1932-2007) was an indigenous artist from the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation in northwestern Canada. He is known for his stylized designs that rely heavily on simple flat shapes, bright colors, and thick lines.

He drew inspiration from cultural traditions, his dreams, and the people and animals of Canada. In this project, we’ll use Morrisseau's work as inspiration for our own stylized paintings.

Norval Morrisseau
Observations of the Astral World
Acrylic on canvas, 1994
1 Sketch simple shapes:

Stylization takes into consideration the way an artist naturally draws, and how they simplify what they observe about their subject.

Select your reference photo(s) and sketch simplified shapes over the main areas. In our example, a deer and a raven will be our subjects.

For the deer, we combined elements from two different photos. One photo shows the shape of the body, and the other shows the head and antlers in a different position that we’d like to use.
2 Refine the drawing:

Draw your shapes from Step 1 onto a clean sheet of paper or a canvas.

Add in lines, dots, and simple shapes to fill in your subject. Below are stylized versions of the deer and raven, in a style inspired by Norval Morrisseau.
3 Design your composition:

Morrisseau often used interesting negative shapes around and between the subjects in his work. Placing the raven near the deer will help create some in this painting.

Morrisseau also used interesting shapes in the background. Keep that in mind as you draw objects in your background. Use simple, stylized lines that match the style of the other drawn elements.
4 Paint your design:
Trace over your pencil lines with a thin black Sharpie marker. Use the paint of your choice to fill in the different areas of your design. Let the painting dry completely.

5 Emphasize your lines:
Use a wide black Sharpie marker to trace over the outlines and details again. Be sure your painting is dry before doing so!

You can alter the thickness of the lines as you trace. Thicker lines can help give the illusion of shadow or depth.