



MUSEUM FROM HOME

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Doug Smith, *America's Crazy Quilt*, 2010, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48in.
Museum Purchase with Funds from James B. Flaws and Marcia Weber. 2010.4

Landscape Mosaics!

Look!

Does this painting remind you of the landscape here in New York State? Why or why not?

Does this look like a landscape you have ever seen?

How would you describe this painting? Is it realistic, abstract or both?

Learn!

Have you ever been traveling in the car with your face pressed up against the window and after a long car ride, the trees, houses and fields all start to merge? Maybe you have been in a plane and when you looked out the window, you saw the geometric patterns, lines and textures of the farms and fields with the multi colors of the earth and crops? Smith's painting has a similar effect on the eyes. He combines recognizable details like the farm with the layered abstracted grids of the **aerial** (bird's eye) view. His work begins to take you on an imaginary journey through the American landscape!

Smith was born and raised in San Francisco, California. His parents recognized his talent and encouraged him to pursue art. His mother was an accomplished impressionist painter and took him to exhibitions and museums in San Francisco. By age 9, he sold his first oil painting! Smith worked as a graphic designer in California. In 2000, he decided to leave his graphic design job to become a painter full-time. Smith has been compared to some artists that came before him such as Hans Hoffman, George Morrison and Richard Diebenkorn. You can see an example of Diebenkorn's work that is currently on view in the Museum's Contemporary Gallery on loan to us from the [Crystal Bridges Art Gallery](#).

Smith's work is full of line, form, texture, shape and color. His paintings glow with shimmering light and give the feeling of the vast wide-open spaces of the western American landscape. The next time you go on a trip in the car or in a plane, think of Smith's painting and the blending of all the beautiful colors, textures, line and form of the manmade and natural landscape!

Be sure to visit The Rockwell Museum's [eMuseum digital collection](#) and [Doug Smith's website](#).

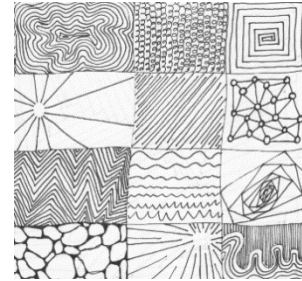
DO!

Doug Smith uses these elements of design to create his works of art.

Color: How colors are combined can change the way they look and feel. Blended colors can make you feel calm when you look at them. Different colors right next to each other may feel active or exciting. Color can make you feel emotions like angry or happy. Color is warm or cold; for instance, blue and green can make you think of cool water or plants, and red and orange can make you think about warmth or fire.



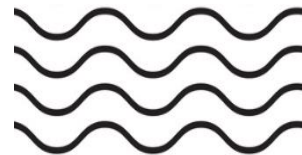
Line: Use of different kinds of lines can make you feel different, too. Straight lines can seem firm and strong, wavy lines are graceful and soothing, while zigzag lines are active or sharp.



Shape: Shapes can be symbols that remind you of certain things. A circle could represent the circle of life or something that goes on forever, while a square could make you feel boxed in.

Texture – How would this thing feel if you touched it? Hard, smooth, soft, dry? This is texture. A soft texture can make you feel peaceful, while a prickly texture is uncomfortable or painful.

Pattern – Artists sometimes use pattern when creating their artworks. The arrangement of lines or shapes can help artists share their message. A regular pattern can make you think of a calm rhythm while an irregular pattern shows confusion or action.



[Visit this blog post on our website to learn more about the elements of art.](#)

Use Doug Smith's *America's Crazy Quilt* for inspiration along with these elements of design to make your own masterpiece.

Supplies:

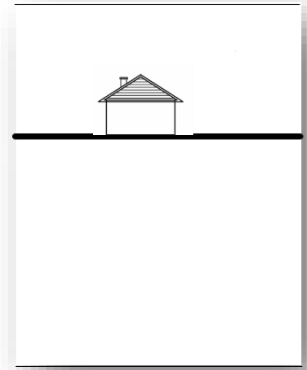
- Pencil
- Paints, markers, colored pencils or crayons
- Paper for drawing (use the largest you can find)
- Paper for writing notes

1. Find a picture of a landscape. This can be a photo that you have or a picture from a magazine or visit The Rockwell Museum's [eMuseum digital collection](#).
2. On your writing paper, answer the questions with a few descriptive words.

Tip: Look at the picture with your eyes half closed. This may help to answer the following questions!

- What colors are there? Do you think they are warm or cool? Do you feel happy, sad?
- What lines do you see? Do you see straight and tall grasses? Do you see graceful vines?
- What shapes can you find? Perhaps a rectangle building or a round wheel?
- What textures would you feel if you could touch the objects in the picture? Hard concrete? Smooth wood? Soft grass?
- Do you see repeating patterns? Do you feel calm or energetic?

3. On your drawing paper, draw a horizontal line about 1/3 down from the top (see picture at right).
4. On top of that line, draw your landscape and color it in. Use your chosen landscape picture for guidance, and your imagination to make it special.
5. Below the line, draw some new lines to make sections, using Doug Smith's American Quilt for inspiration.
6. Think about the descriptive words that you wrote about your picture and fill in the sections with color, lines, texture, shapes and patterns to tell the story of the landscape.
7. What is the title of your painting? Why do you want to call it that? Write this on your paper.
8. Sign your masterpiece with your name!



Extra: Write a short story about your painting using some of the words you thought about at the beginning. The title of the story could be the same as the title of your painting.

Texture Rubbings

Look at the images below. Think about the texture of each one: is it smooth? Prickly? Bumpy?

[Click here to watch a short video](#) about how to make a texture rubbing of these. Try to make a rubbing of the textures you can find around your house. You can add these elements to your drawing or make another one.

