

Plant Art

Learning Objective:

To know how to create depth in an artwork



Back

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Next



Time for a two-minute
challenge!

Sketch a tree using your
memory and imagination.
Draw the trunk and branches
only - no leaves.

Try not to look at anyone else's sketch -
focus on your own!

Was this an easy or hard challenge? Why?

Which part of your sketch are you pleased with?



Which part of your sketch do you think needs more work?

Share and discuss your sketch with a partner.

Observe the tree below carefully.
Discuss the following questions with a partner:

Where are the
thickest
branches?



What direction
are the branches
growing in?

Where are the
thinnest
branches?

Begin at the
trunk. Can you follow
a path of branches
to the very tip of
the tree?

Did you notice that...?

- The trunk of a tree is thicker than any of the branches.
- The branches that grow directly from the trunk are the thickest branches.
- The branches that grow from these ones becomes thinner and thinner.
- Branches try to grow in the direction of the sunlight.



Now let's look at a step-by-step guide for one method of how to draw a tree...



The 'V & Y' method...



Start by drawing two vertical lines that curve outwards towards the top. This is the trunk - it should be the thickest part of your tree.



Next, create three main branches from the trunk, by drawing two tilted 'V's. Make the trunk lines a bit longer to create the other side of each outer branch.



In the centre of each of these branches, draw another 'V' and then make the outer branch lines longer to create the other sides of each one. Can you see the three 'Y' shapes?



Back



Next



Continue to draw 'V's in the centre of each of these branches, and make the outer branch lines longer to create the other sides of each one. Make sure that each layer of 'Y's become shorter and thinner.



As you extend your branches, they will probably cross over each other at some points. Do not draw through the branches you have already created - make it look like they are growing behind those you have already drawn.



When you think your tree has enough branches, on the final layer, join the outer side of each branch to each side of the 'V' in its centre.

You have finished drawing your tree!





Time for another
two-minute challenge!

Sketch a tree again - this time
using the 'V & Y' method.

(Remember what you have learnt
about the thickness and direction
of the branches!)

Compare your
two sketches.
Which do you
think is better
and why?



See if a partner
agrees with you.
Ask them to
explain their
choice.



Back



Next

We can also use the 'Y & Y' method to create a painting of a tree too...



Can you use these pictures to discuss with a partner how this painting of the tree has been created?

Now that we know how to draw and paint a tree, we are going to look at how to draw several trees together, and create the feeling of 'depth' in our artwork.



Do you know what
'depth' means in art?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



If an artist creates depth in a picture, they create the feeling that the picture is not just flat, but that some objects are closer, and some are further away.



Which of the trees in this picture look the furthest away? Which look the nearest?



How do you know this? What is different about them in comparison to the other trees?



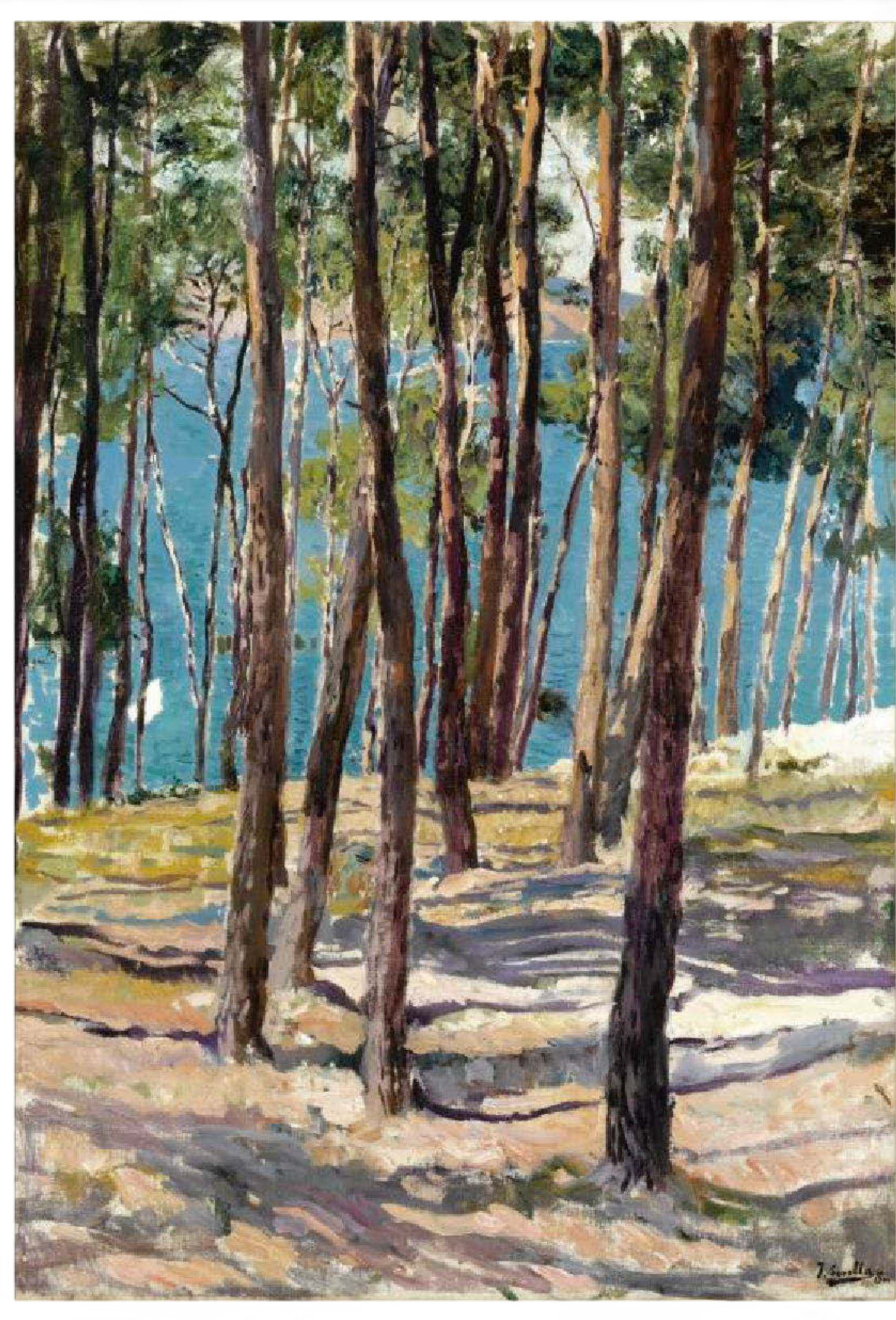
To make a tree look further away:

- it has been painted in a lighter tone of colour
- it is smaller than the other trees
- it has been placed higher up on the canvas

To make a tree look nearer:

- it has been painted in a darker tone of colour
- it is larger than the other trees
- it has been placed lower down on the canvas

Look at these pictures to see if you think they show depth.
Discuss with your partner how each artist has created this feeling.



Back

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Now it is your turn
to create depth in
your artworks!



Plenary:

In your opinion, which of these paintings creates the most realistic sense of depth? Explain your choice.

