Art Masterpiece: *Mediterranean Scene*
by Raoul Dufy

Keywords: Line, Texture, Detail

Activity: Scratch-art Scene

About the Artist:

- Raoul Dufy was a French Fauvist painter. He was also a printmaker, book illustrator, furniture designer, and a planner of public spaces.
- Raoul Dufy was born in 1877 into a large family in Normandy, France. He left school at the age of 14 to work in a coffee-importing company. In 1895, when he was 18, he began taking evening art classes, during which he painted mostly local landscapes in watercolors.
- In 1900, after a year of military service, Raoul Dufy won a scholarship to art school in Paris, where he concentrated on improving his drawing skills. During art school, Dufy was influenced profoundly by the Impressionist landscape painters, such as Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro.
• After art school, Dufy proceeded to find his own niche in the world of French art. He was influenced by the works of Henri Matisse and Cezanne, and by the artistic styles of fauvism and cubism. Drawing from these influences, Dufy developed his own unique style. It involved skeletal structures arranged with foreshortened perspective, and the use of thin washes of color applied quickly, in a manner that came to be known as *stenographic*.

• His innovative colorful & decorative style became fashionable for designs of ceramics and textiles, as well as decorative schemes for public buildings. He is noted for scenes of open-air social events.

• In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Dufy exhibited at the annual *Salon des Tuileries* in Paris. By 1950, his hands were struck with rheumatoid arthritis, and his ability to paint diminished because he had to fasten the brush to his hand. Dufy sought experimental treatment for his arthritis, and died in France in 1953 from complications of this medical treatment.

**Possible Questions:**

• What types of texture do you see? (rough, smooth, bumpy, wet, soft, spikey) How does the artist use line to demonstrate the texture of the water, the trees, the land, the clouds, and the buildings?

• What type of scene is this? (a landscape of a beachfront town)

• What other types of landscapes can you think of? (mountain, city, desert, etc.)

• Does this look like a place you would like to take a vacation? Why or why not?

• Do you think the artist painted this scene “in person,” while viewing it outside his window? Or do you think he painted it strictly using his own imagination?
Activity: Large Scratch-art Scenic Card

1) Coordinator: Prior to the activity, cut the scratch-art paper into half sheets (½ sheet per student). Fold the coordinating construction paper in half to make a large card, and attach the scratch-art paper to one half of the card at the corners with staples. Assemble one card per student.

2) Volunteer: Hand out ½ sheet of plain white paper per student. Before beginning the scratch-art project, have the students think about whom they would like to give the card to. It might be a parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, teacher, or other person they care about.

3) What kind of scene would they like to draw? Have them sketch this scene roughly on the white piece of paper to solidify their ideas. Laminated copies with some ideas are included in the bin, and can be handed out for the students to look at. Scratch-Art paper doesn't allow for any erasing, so this is their chance to practice their ideas.

4) After all the students have drawn a rough sketch on the white paper, hand out the scratch-art paper cards and scratch-art sticks. Demonstrate how to scratch a design into the paper with the stick.

5) Students will use the rough sketch they made as a guide, and will scratch their scene into the scratch-art paper.

6) After the students have completed scratching their design into the paper, hand out the black ballpoint pens, and allow them time to write a note to their person of choice inside the card. They should sign the card with their name.

7) Please return all supplies to the Art Masterpiece bins. Please discard the used scratch-art sticks. They do not work as well the second time because the tips become dull.
Materials Needed:

- Scratch-art paper, 8 ½ x 11, assorted colors (cut in half)
- Construction paper, 9 x 12-inch, assorted colors, to coordinate with scratch-art paper colors (fold in half to make a card)
- Stapler
- Laminated copies of Landscape Ideas
- Pencils, erasers
- Blank white copy paper, ½ sheets, to use for ideas
- Scratch-art sticks, 1 per student
- Black ballpoint pens

Artwork Examples: