

Salmon Drawings Inspired by Rick Bartow

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY BOB HOASE

Description

Students will make a drawing of a salmon inspired by Rick Bartow's work, and will incorporate ideas from their own imagination.

Materials

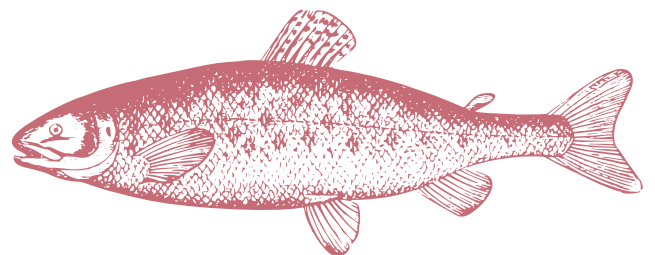
- Images of Rick Bartow's paintings (included at the end of this lesson)
- Thick white paper paper
- Crayons or oil pastels
- Colored pencils
- Optional: pictures of salmon



Example by Jessica Conway

Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Color
- ✓ Line
- ✓ Shape
- ✓ Texture
- ✓ Flat
- ✓ Space
- ✓ Foreground



Instructions

- 1) Show students Rick Bartow's paintings (included at the end of this lesson) and use Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to talk and think more about the art.
 - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
- 2) Hand out paper and pencils to students.
- 3) Ask students create their own salmon drawings using images of salmon combined with their own imaginative ideas. Students can use line, shape, space, color, & texture to create the salmon from their imaginations. You may want to find some pictures of salmon online or in books or even use real salmon for inspiration.
- 4) Students can add more color and pattern using oil pastels or crayons.



Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cr1.1.4** (Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem)
- **VA:Re7.2.4** (Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages)
- **VA:Re8.1.4** (Interpret art by referring to contextual information and analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media)

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators

About the Artist: Rick Bartow

Rick Bartow (1946-2016) was a Native American artist and Vietnam veteran from Oregon. He worked primarily in pastel or graphite, creating mythical, haunting works of animals and humans.



Salmon Song, 1993

Photo Source: Froelick Gallery



Above: Bartow pictured with his work
Photo Source: Froelick Gallery



Left: Photo of Bartow by Alex V. Cipolle

Photo Source:

www.eugeneweekly.com/2015/04/09/teeth-bones/

“Work. That’s the only thing.
That’s the only way. Work.
Work. Do what you can, as
long as you can, because I don’t
see anything else. My place to
have fun is work. To get out of
pain — working. There’s not
much else outside of that.”

-Rick Bartow



Salmon, 1990

Image credit: www.arts.wa.gov



Salmon Song, 1993
Image Credit: Froelick Gallery