

# Thomas Lyon Mills Nature Drawing

ASP Ms. MacLure

**Objective:** Using Mills' mixed media process, students will create a meaningful piece using observational drawing from nature and

**Frameworks Objective (2.16):** Create artwork that demonstrates a purposeful use of the elements and principles of design to convey meaning and emotion



#### **OVERVIEW**

Learning different artistic processes can help inform us of our own preferred ways of working. By working in the manner of Thomas Lyon Mills, you will be exposed to a process of drawing, redrawing, cutting, pasting, rearranging, and composing.

Throughout history, artists have been looking to nature for inspiration and to gain understanding of the world around us. When choosing your natural object of choice, choose something with challenging moments. You also want to remember that you will be spending a great deal of time with this object, so you should find it incredibly interesting.

Thomas Lyon Mills: "Like mapmakers, we draw and paint what we observe, but find our drawings inevitably cross over into the unknown, for, like maps, they are never truly, wholly accurate, never allowing for shifting points of view, or even the necessity of dreams. This then, is our region—where the visible and invisible meet, where the observed and the intuitive lie side by side, and where the seen pays a constant debt to the unseen."

Materials :Charcoal, paper, thread, mixed media



Contact: Questions? Email Ms. Mac at amaclure@valleytech.k12.ma.us

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## Use the following steps...Demos will be given for each.

- -During class, students will draw natural objects from the classroom provided by Ms. Mac. You will make several drawings using charcoal. You will work on:
- ----One large drawing using charcoal filling the entire page with a zoomed in drawing of the object
- ----One large wet charcoal drawing of the object from another point of view
- ----One large reductive drawing using charcoal and erasers of your object. Make sure to light it interestingly.
- ----At least 5 pictures taken with your phone to use for later, of different points of view.
- -At home, you will make 10 gesture drawings of the object using pen, and 1 rendered drawing in your sketchbook of the object.
- -Following these activities, you will choose to cut or tear up your three large drawings. You can bind them back togehter however you chooseglue, tape, thread...it's up to you.
- -Lastly, you will work to create an interesting composition from these cut pieces, and create a new drawing. Now you are less worried about drawing the object as a whole. Can you show us what this object is without drawing the object in its entirety? Use Mills' drawings for reference and inspiration.



#### Assessment:

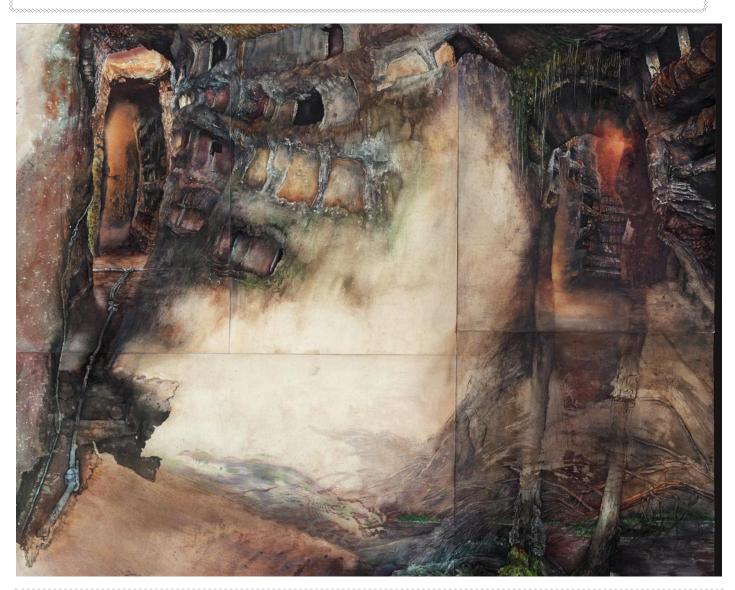
- -Overall design/composition: 15 pts
- -Originality: 20 pts
- -Craftsmanship: 20 pts
- -Creative combination of imagery to create new image. *15pts*
- -Strong sense of light source: 15 pts
- -Used care with art materials: 15 pts

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Choose a natural object for this project.

- 1. In your sketchbook- reflect upon the following: What natural object are you choosing? Why? What comes to mind when you look at this object? Describe its features with all your senses (minus taste). Have other artists drawn this object?
- 2. At home, you will make 10 gesture drawings of the object using pen, and 1 rendered drawing in your sketchbook of the object using the photos you took earlier for reference.



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### Thomas Lyon Mills Nature Drawing-Student Examples

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