

# Apples in Paint

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## Objectives

- Draw an apple with correct proportions and perspective.
- Be able to recognize the difference between a symbol for an apple and a drawing of an apple.
- Use repetition and focal point placement to create strong composition.
- Utilize under painting techniques and lighting (reflection) techniques as in the work of Mary Pratt.
- Be able to tell the story of the invention of the Macintosh apple by John MacIntosh (Canadian).
- Pinpoint on a map of Canada where the first Macintosh apple tree grew.
- Recognize the art of Mary Pratt and know some facts about her life.
- Be able to mix red and green to create variations of red. Refer to colour wheel and complementary colours for this portion of the lesson.

In this unit of study the students viewed the work of Mary Pratt paying particular attention to her use of light.

**Mary Pratt** Mary Pratt was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1935. She graduated from Mount Allison University, School of Fine Arts in 1961. Pratt has exhibited extensively across Canada and was the subject of a retrospective organized by the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in 1995. Her work is found in many private and corporate collections across Canada. Public collections include the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; the Vancouver Art Gallery; and Memorial University Art Gallery in St. John's among others.



### **The Story of the McIntosh Apple** Written by Georges Vanier's 2/3 Class

The McIntosh apple is a delicious apple. Here is how it came to be. In 1796, John McIntosh and his wife moved to Ontario. In 1801, five years after moving to their new home, they cleared land for their farm. They found a sapling near their farm and transplanted it near their house. A few years later, the saplings grew into apple trees but the apples tasted sour. A few years later, John noticed a beautiful red apple on the tree and when he bit into it he found it was delicious and juicy. All of the neighbours came by for samples.

Allan, the couple's son, learned how to graft cuttings from the special apple tree to other trees. An apple orchard was born! They called the apples McIntosh Reds because Mr. John McIntosh discovered them.

Did you know that apples are Canada's most valuable and largest fruit crop and of these, the McIntosh apple is the most important? So the next time you bite into a McIntosh apple, remember the story of John McIntosh and how he discovered Canada's most delicious and juiciest apple.

#### Resources List:

Mary Pratt, *A Personal Calligraphy*, Goose Lane Edition, New Brunswick, 2000

#### Links

<http://www.godardgallery.com/maryprat.htm>

## Steps to drawing an apple (project 1)

To draw an apple the children must first really look at an apple, see that it is not really round but rather has bumps and lumps all over. Really look at the stem. It doesn't rise way above the top of the apple as in some colouring book images of apples. Look at the skin see the various shades of red, green and yellow. Also observe the small yellow dots on the skin of the apple.

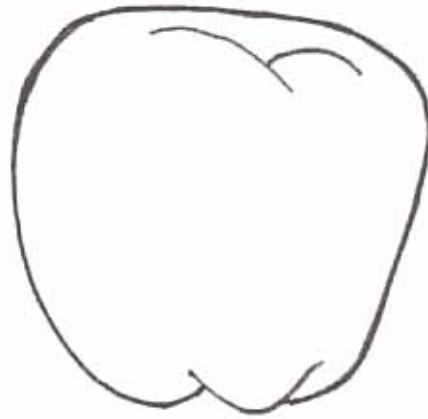
A symbol of an apple that most have come to accept as an apple so in turn the children will draw it as such if not instructed.



Observe how the stem of a apple comes out of the apple. It will look something like this.



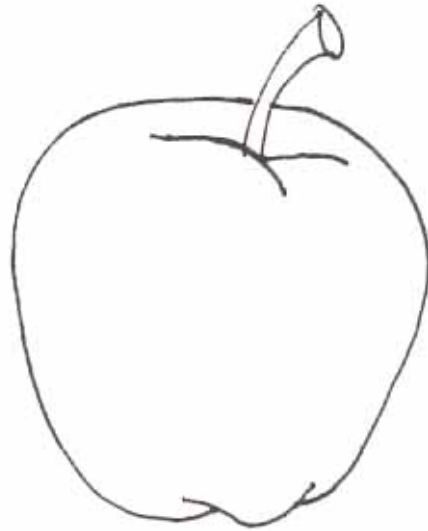
Add the back portion of the apple behind the stem that is visible when looking at an apple.



Observe how an apple is not round but rather unique in shape. Draw it.



Finished apple.



## Painting Apples without a Brush (project 2)

### Materials

- Chunks of cardboard (matt board works best) all sizes
- Pizza box lids
- Liquid tempera paint all colours placed in large areas on the lid of a pizza box. (I found its was the best for access to the paint and for clean up)

Large Bristol board sheets



### Procedure

Demonstrate the various ways in which to make shapes using a piece of cardboard.

Have the children draw an apple. It is recommended the children have access to apples or images of apples.

4. The children use the chunks of cardboard to create their pieces. The apples should be simple and large to ensure success. Colour the apples first and the background second.

5. Clean up is really easy. Place all pieces of cardboard on the pizza lid and throw it out. (I love it!)

### **Apples in Odd Places (project 3)**

Brainstorm where an apple would be found. (on a table, in a basket, in a lunch kit) Look at some reproductions of Mary Pratt's work. Her fruit is often found exactly where it should be found, on a table, in a bowl etc. Note the composition and colour of her pieces.

Then pose the question, where would an apple NOT be found? Some of the ideas that the students gave were in a bag of baseballs, in a toy box, on top of a horse's head.

Have the children practice drawing apples. See steps at beginning of lesson. Have the children practice drawing apples from all angles prior to creating the final composition. Explain the difference between the symbol for an apple and an anatomically correct drawing of an apple.

I had the children draw the apples in odd places using pencil and then colour with pencil crayon and crayon.

### **What is in the apple barrel?? (project 4)**

The children are going to draw apples in a barrel. However one item in the barrel will not be an apple. For example all apples and one shoe, all apples and one baseball.



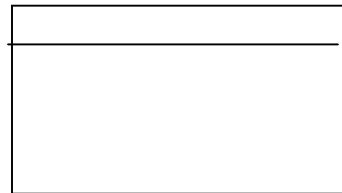
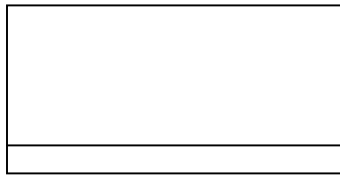
Discuss the placement of the apples in the barrel and that not every apple would point the same direction in a barrel. Sometimes the viewer would see the bottom and sometimes the top and other times the side. Talk about placement of the

applies on the page so that there is strong composition.

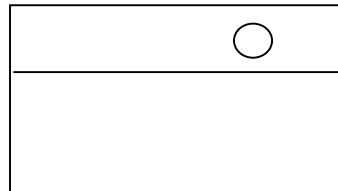
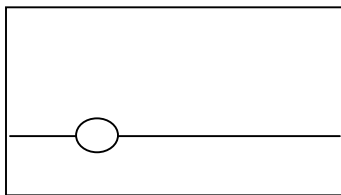
Landscapes are a wonderful place to experiment with composition. Again many people will place the horizon line half way down the page, the ordinary.



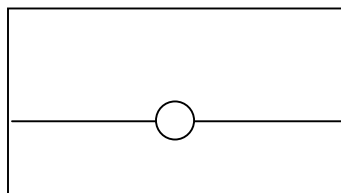
However, if an artist uses the ideas of 1/6 or 1/5 to divide land and sky it is more interesting



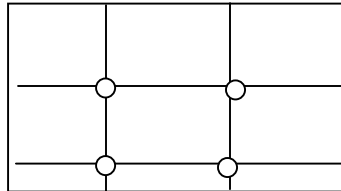
The artist must also choose to place their subject in a spot that is not ordinary. The ordinary versus the extreme makes an interesting piece. The circles in the following compositions show extreme placement of subject.



The following shows the ordinary placement of subject, that which happens often with the amateur photographer/artist.



The rule of thirds can also be applied when placing a subject in an interesting focal point. The image area divided into thirds both way, and the intersecting lines being a great place to put the focal point. The circles on the following grid indicate the best place to put the focal point.



The students can take images and photos from calendars and try to identify which type of composition the photographer used.

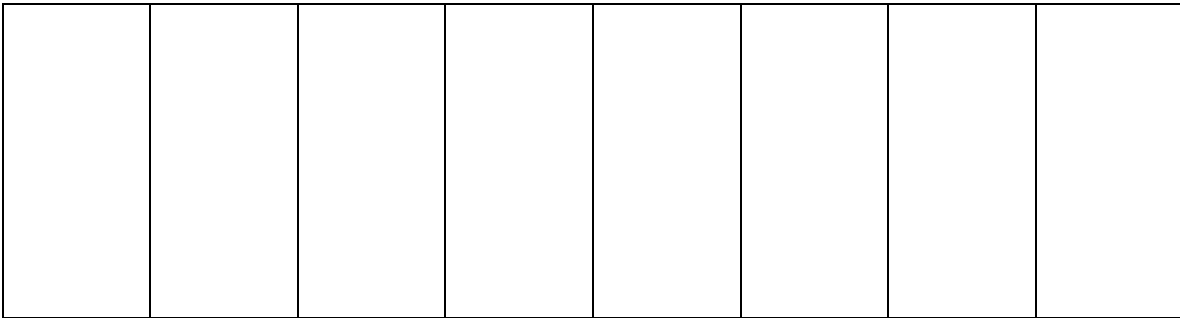
### **Give the subject somewhere to go**

With action figures such as a person bicycling he places them entering the one side of the image with space for them to move across the page. The biker needs space in front of the bike so as not to appear crushed or pushed into the space.

Draw the apples.

Teach them about under painting. An apple under close observation has little yellow dots on the skin. To achieve this without painting the dots later, the students create a thin layer of yellow on the paper and then when it is dry add red over top of it, they also need to look carefully at the apple because it is not all red but rather, greens, yellows and oranges.

It would be good for the student to practice the shadowing of the apple on scrap paper.

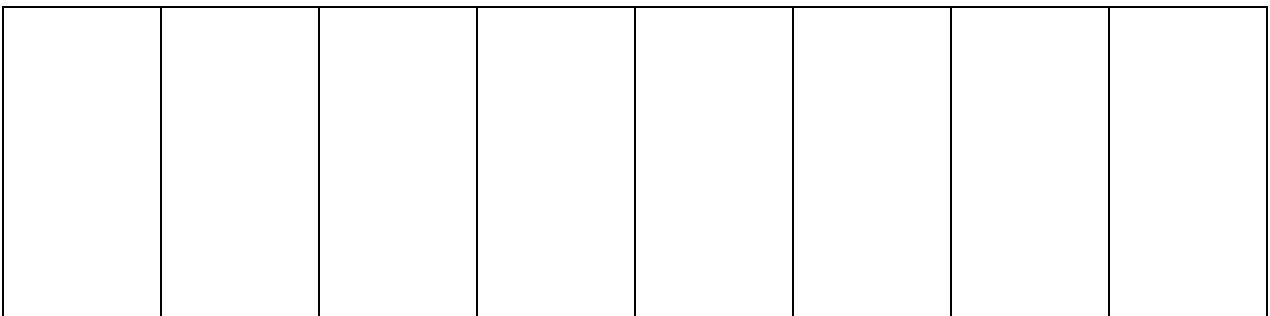


The method to create dark red for shadows is to add green to the red paint. It works such that the colour directly across from another will make the opposite colour darker. Do not add black but rather add green.

Once they had finished painting the apples I gave them the option of returning to the piece and using oil pastels to add some highlights and shadows if they felt it was needed.

Below is a chart that the children can use to practice making dark green and dark red.

They begin with pure red on the first square and progressively get darker.



Once they have mastered mixing dark and light red and green they can begin painting their apples in a barrel.