



End of Summer, 2003 - Watercolor

# SARAH CAPPS

## cedarhurst

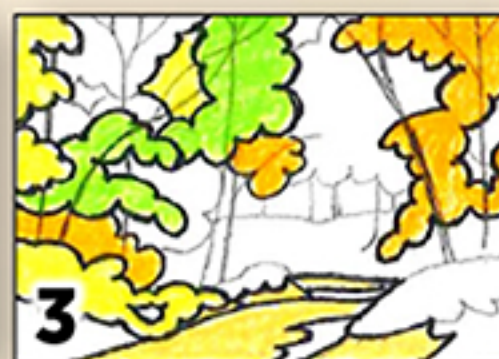
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### Have fun in the classroom learning to draw a landscape!

Select this image or make one up. Break that image down into colored shapes by outlining. Trace or draw your image on your paper. If you are working in watercolor, tempera, colored markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc. start coloring in your lightest colors first. The reason for this is that

you can cover a lighter color with a darker color but it is very difficult to cover a dark color with a lighter one. The darker color will almost always show through. Here are examples one through six that illustrate the method of constructing a landscape.

1. Select your image and draw it on your paper.
2. Color in your lightest tones of yellow, orange, and tan.
3. color in yellow green next.
4. Add the light blue green and medium green.
5. Color in the darkest green and dark brown colors last.
6. Finally Draw in the black tree shapes and you are done!



### About the Artist Sarah Capps



I grew up on a 200-acre farm south of Belle Rive in southern Illinois; down a dirt road a mile from the nearest neighbor. Our family home had no electricity or indoor plumbing until I was an adult.

My first memory of creating art happened when I was just three. My older sister and I were drawing on rolls of leftover wall paper and I remember Jan giving me instructions on how to draw her. She was sitting in profile to me pointing to various parts of her face. "Look at me, now draw my forehead. Look at my nose, now draw it; now draw my lips." As I drew, magic happened. She was appearing on my paper! I didn't have a word at age three for artist or art but I somehow knew that this was something I was going to do for the rest of my life. When other little girls said they wanted to be a nurse or secretary when they grew up, I always knew I wanted to be an artist.

In grade school, there was not much focus on art, however my teacher was and artist herself and she encouraged me to pursue my passion. I drew constantly, whether it was a horse (my specialty), people, classmates or teachers.

I attended Mt. Vernon Township High School and, under the direction of art teacher Alma Biagi, I took every art class available. While in high school, I learned basic watercolor techniques however I did not use them for another 20 years.

After high school I attended Mt. Vernon Community College (now Rend Lake College) for two years and

then went on to earn a degree in Art Education from Southern Illinois University. During my time as a student in Carbondale I worked for a paleontologist and drew illustrations for his scientific publications. I was always interested in science and had drawn from the skeleton a great deal so my bones looked like bones. In my final semesters of college I was able to take my favorite studio art classes; painting, jewelry and metalsmithing. During that year three important things happened. First, I realized that although I was a pretty good painter, my subject matter was boring me. I didn't feel I had much to say. The second thing was I had become fascinated by the materials and techniques of metals



"Cicada Necklace"  
Sterling Silver, Brass, Ebony, Oak, Jasper & Epoxy - Sarah Capps

as an art medium. I had all kinds of ideas. The third, and most significant to my art career, was having the opportunity to study under artist/professor Brent Kington. His influence over my art and my life cannot be overstated.

With his help and encouragement I taught in the metal arts program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Again, with his recommendation, I was hired at Eastern Kentucky University where I designed the metals studio and program.

In 1980 I returned to southern Illinois as a metal art instructor at Rend Lake College. RLC department chairperson, Dr. Evelyn Claxton, asked if I would paint for her a watercolor landscape with day-lilies. I had not touched a paint brush in ten years or a watercolor brush in about 20 years. After buying a new supply of paints, paper, and brushes I tackled the project.

Much to my delight and amazement, I really enjoyed creating that painting and I realized how much I had missed color! The most amazing thing however, was how much my style had changed. Instead of the large impressionistic painting style of my college years, I had transformed into a photo-realist without painting anything for ten years. My vision of art had changed. The craftsmanship



"The Source"  
Watercolor, Sarah Capps

I learned from Brent transferred itself into painting. I also now had something to say and express through my art. The place where I grew up, family history, the creek where I played, and all of southern Illinois had become my subject. The landscape in particular drew me. That creek had always been a magical place and now has become my spiritual place. I've painted it in all seasons, all times of day and it always reveals something new and wonderful. The metalwork also is themed in nature. This correlates with the landscapes and also refers back to my experience as a scientific illustrator. It is unusual for an artist to work in multiple media and styles, but looking at it with the history/knowledge of where life has taken me, the work makes sense. My creativity has evolved through time as all artists' work must if he/she is going to grow as an artist.



"Nothing Gold Can Stay" - Watercolor, Sarah Capps

### Back Yards in Southern Illinois

Artist, Sarah Capps spends a lot of time in her backyard. She finds inspiration in the nature she sees around her.

- What is in your backyard?
- Does it look different in the fall than in the summertime?
- Are there trees or plants in your backyard?
- What types of animals can you find?

Southern Illinois is home to many species of trees and animals. Below are the state animals of Illinois. Have you seen any of these animals in your backyard?

### Illinois State Ani-

Tully Monster  
State Fossil



Monarch Butterfly  
State Insect



Northern Cardinal  
State Bird



Bluegill  
State Fish



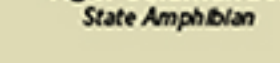
Painted Turtle  
State Reptile



White-Tailed Deer  
State Animal



Tiger Salamander  
State Amphibian



### Welcome to Cedarhurst

Nestled on a 90-acre site in southern Illinois, Cedarhurst celebrates the arts year-round with exciting visual and performing arts programs for the public. Explore rolling meadows and woods, home to Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park, the museum's outdoor gallery with over 60 large-scale sculptures. Visit the Cedarhurst art exhibitions in five galleries, including the Beck Family Center. Enjoy works in the permanent collection gallery by Mary Cassatt, Maurice Prendergast, Childe Hassam and more, part of the museum's American painting collection acquired by founders John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

#### EDUCATION

##### Beck Family Center

Located inside the Mitchell Museum, the Beck Family Center is a hands-on environment providing endless opportunities for visitors to experience the textures, color, and excitement of discovering art in the world around them. It is designed to encourage family members of all ages to discover and kindle their artistic interest.

##### Teacher Resources & School Programs

Cedarhurst provides opportunities for art education through performing arts programs, in-school programs, student workshops, FREE tours of exhibitions and Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park, and the Art Resource Lending Library, offering materials for classroom instruction.

##### Family Events

Cedarhurst annually presents a series of family activities, which complement museum exhibitions. Conducted by the museum's Director of Education, Family Days and Story Times are held throughout the year. Check our website for specific dates.

##### Shrode Art Center

Cedarhurst classes and workshops allow children to have fun while exploring the arts. Programs include the popular Cedarhurst Summer Camp, ABC's and Art for toddlers and the afterschool program Art Time!



cedarhurst  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
2600 Richview Road  
Mount Vernon, IL 62864  
618.242.1236  
www.cedarhurst.org

Sponsored by Dennis and Phyllis McEnaney

An activity of the John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Foundation.



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Art Council, a state agency, and in part, by the Schweinfurth Foundation.