

Teacher/Parent Introduction

Themes

Tricks of Perfection is based on two themes.

Theme in Life: We all admire extraordinary skill.

Theme in Art: Some artists are so skillful they can trick the eye.

Key Question

Lessons approach the themes through one key question.

- How does value (light and dark) help artists create realistic drawings?

Connections

Broad themes and key questions not only give focus to specific activities but also provide connections that children can use to go beyond those activities.

The broad *theme in art* can be an entry point to explore art from diverse cultures and times, especially in the west. The broad *theme in life* connects art to widely-held human concerns.

Similarly, the key question can guide inquiry into a great many artworks, not just those introduced in the lesson.

Adaptations & Extensions

The lessons in this unit are written for secondary students or students with less art experience.

See the elementary version of the unit, which is appropriate for younger students or students with less art experience.

Students vary greatly in maturity and prior experience. Of course, as you plan to implement specific activities, you will want to make adjustments to best suit the abilities and interests of your students.

Visit the Tempe Center for the Arts. You are encouraged to visit the Masters of Illusion exhibition. Selected works from the exhibition are reproduced in the “Now You Try” PowerPoint, which you can use if a trip to the TCA is not possible.

Estimated Time

Preview and Lesson One = 90 minutes

Lesson Two = Field Trip

Lesson Three = 135 minutes