

# Frank Raymond Rosseel and a River Landscape

## Grades 6-12

Rosseel was an artist who specialized in paintings and sketches. He enjoyed rivers, lakes, and old river boats and scenes as subjects in his art work. For our project, students will be exposed to water color painting using watercolor pencils and techniques and become inspired by viewing the St. Lawrence River from the Museum and by looking at Rosseel's work regarding this river.

### Lesson Overview

The grade level this lesson is designed for is 6-12 and the subject is art. The length of the lesson will be 40 minutes. This lesson will be considered a meaningful use task (M.U.T.) in a class that revolves around Frank Raymond Rosseel and his career as a writer and flatwork artist.



For the course offered, students will view a Power Point presentation about Rosseel and his life, view his artworks first hand at the Frederic Remington Art Museum, and create the M.U.T. using

watercolor pencils, learning techniques to aid in completing a successful composition.

### Essential Question(s)

- Who was Frank Raymond Rosseel?
- How did he make a living?
- What medium did he like to work in?
- What subjects did he enjoy interpreting in his work?

### Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

- Tell the instructor who F. R. Rosseel was and what he did for a living
- Tell the instructor what types of artwork Rosseel made
- Create a watercolor scene using the techniques taught in the class based on the St. Lawrence River

## **NY Curriculum Standards**

- NY.ART.K-12.1 Students will actively engage in the processes that constitute creation and performance in the arts (dance, music, theatre, and visual arts) and participate in various roles in the arts
- NY.ART.K-12.2 Students will be knowledgeable about and make use of the materials and resources available for participation in the arts in various roles.
- NY.ART.K-12.3 Students will respond critically to a variety of works in the arts, connecting the individual work to other works and to other aspects of human endeavor and thought

## **Anticipatory Set- Description of the Lesson Launch activity**

Students will arrive at Kid's Place and be verbally led into the lesson. For the launch, students will be shown a Power Point presentation. Power Point will include:

- A slideshow using Power Point of F. R. Rosseel's artwork
- Information on how to create a successful composition using watercolor pencil techniques
- Tips on how to create a successful river scene composition

The students will also see a video on the Dick Blick website that walks users through the watercolor pencil technique.

## **Description of how objectives will be communicated to students**

This will be done using the Power Point presentation. Students will see Rosseel's work and be led in a discussion about how he created his pieces. The next few slides of the presentation will be devoted to using the watercolor pencils and making a composition using drawing skills. After we travel to the Museum to see Rosseel's work firsthand, we will head back to the classroom and begin our pieces, using the presentation to guide us.

## **Description of the relevance of the learning**

By combining the information provided in the Power Point with a field trip to the Museum to see original art works, the group now has the foundational knowledge to create a M.U.T.

The connection should be brought to their attention that there were and are very famous artists that are from the same area that they themselves are from and are currently living in. Coming from an underprivileged area, this realization may open these student's eyes to a bigger and brighter world and future waiting for them beyond our area.

## **Connection to standards**

NY.ART.K-12.1- Students will engage in the process of art work creation through completing their M.U.T.

NY.ART.K-12.2- Students will become aware of sculpting materials through the M.U.T.

NY.ART.K-12.3- Students will respond critically to a variety of works when they view Rosseel's work in the Power Point and in person. They will connect the individual work to other works when they compare his paintings side by side. They will connect other aspects of Rosseel's human endeavor and thought to their aspects of them when they embark to create an artwork based on Rosseel's artwork.

## **Introduce New Information & New Concepts**

The students will learn declarative and procedural knowledge in this lesson.

**Declarative Knowledge-** Factual knowledge that they will learn

- Where Rosseel was from
- What he did for a living
- What his chosen subject matter was

**Procedural Knowledge-** How-to knowledge that the students will learn

- How to examine original art work
- How to infer meaning from an artwork
- How to create a successful composition using the techniques learned in the class

## **Guided Practice**

- The objectives will have been communicated through the Power Point presentation
- Students will be given paper and pencils and then taught how to draw horizontal lines, one will be the horizon line
- Next they will draw protruding lines coming up from the horizon line that look like greater than and less than symbols that will let the artist know how tall the trees will be
- The students will then draw oval shapes to represent tree tops
- Next we add texture and tree trunks in the appropriate colors using the watercolor pencils
- The next step is to use some vertical lines to draw the river's current
- Add water with a paint brush to complete the work

## **Assessments**

The successful completion of the M.U.T. will assess understanding of the art lesson. By asking students the essential questions and hearing answers, assessment of learning for the entire class will be complete.

## **Closure**

For a closure, students will be reminded of the wide, wonderful world that waits for them beyond the borders of our small city and state. They will also be reminded of how proud they should feel when thinking of the talented artist from our small area.

## **Materials Needed**

- Power Point presentation
- Water color pencils
- Card stock sheets for the composition
- A completed example of the river landscape each student will create

## Supplies Needed

**Watercolor Scene lesson:** Rosseel was an artist who specialized in paintings and sketches. He enjoyed rivers, lakes, and old river boats and scenes as subjects in his art work. For our project, students will be exposed to water color painting using watercolor pencils and techniques and become inspired by viewing the St. Lawrence River from the Museum and by looking at Rosseel's work regarding this river.

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### Supplies Needed:

#### Dick Blick

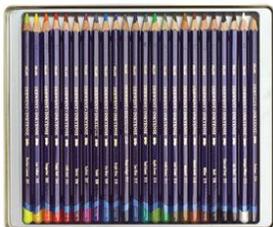
<http://www.dickblick.com/items/22051-1024/>

Watercolor Pencils

\$33.99/Set of 24

2

\$67.98



## Frank Raymond Rosseel and the St. Lawrence River

Frank Raymond Rosseel (1857-1936), an illustrator, watercolor painter, and author, was born in Ogdensburg NY. His family was much involved with prominent families in Ogdensburg.

Rosseel's grandfather Joseph and his father John both served as agents for the Parish family. David Parish built the home in which our collection is encased today; the Parish Mansion, est. 1810. He also purchased hundreds of acres in upstate NY, helping to develop St. Lawrence County. In the 200 years after David built the Parish Mansion, the home was lived in by his nephew George Parish and his mistress, Madame Vespucci, and many others, including Eva Remington, Frederic Remington's wife, who came to stay after the untimely death of her husband in 1909. She and a group of friends, including the mansions owner at the time, George Hall, established the Remington Art Memorial (1923), soon to be called the Frederic Remington Art Museum (1981). Our collection today houses many of

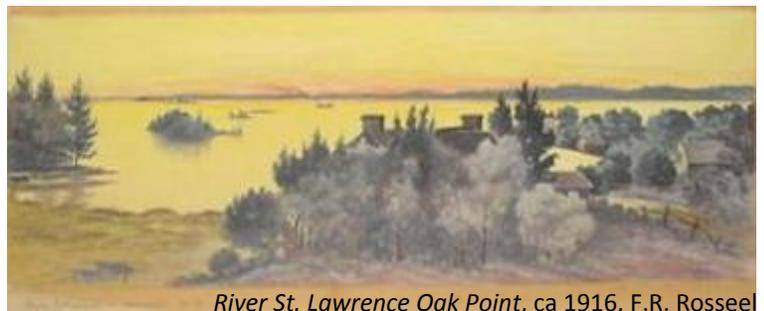


The Parish Mansion, Ogdensburg, NY. The men in the picture are identified from left to right as follows: George Parish; John Rosseel, agent; Judge Wm. C. Brown; Edward Beaty, Parish's cook; and William Houston, the gardener.

Frank Raymond Rosseel's watercolor paintings and other works. F. R. Rosseel found a career for himself in newspapers and magazines, illustrating many of the articles that he wrote. His writings appeared in national magazines over a period of forty years until 1935. He worked for such publications as the Buffalo Express and the Marine View of Cleveland, where he was referred to as 'the historian of the Great Lakes,' having covered stories in that region, and using the lakes as his subject matter in many artworks. He also enjoyed painting and sketching St. Lawrence River scenes in his native Ogdensburg. Rosseel was born just a few years before Frederic Remington, and the two knew each other. Rosseel was quoted in writing saying "I did know and sketch with Frederic Remington when I was 18 or 20."

As a book author, Rosseel found inspiration writing about Madame America Vespucci, again having lived in the Parish Mansion as George Parish's mistress. As said before, Rosseel's grandfather was George's agent. F. R. Rosseel came to possess a collection of historical family letters and papers on which he used to write a book. Vespucci was an interesting subject, arriving in Ogdensburg after being won in a card game by George Parish from John Van Buren, son of Martin Van Buren, then current President of the United States. America was travelling at the time in upstate NY as Van Buren's mistress. She was from France and was seeking status as a U.S. citizen, pleading the case that she was a descendant of the famous explorer Amerigo Vespucci, for whom the north and south continents were named after.

Rosseel possessed unusual ability as a painter and sketcher, many of his subjects being old time river boats and landmarks. He and his wife lived in Eden, NY. Rosseel died in Hamburg NY in 1936.



*River St. Lawrence Oak Point, ca 1916, F.R. Rosseel*