



## MONICA TAP

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

In a notebook or on a sheet of paper, write your answers to the questions below:

- 1) Describe what you notice first about this painting.
- 2) Consider the style of this painting. What do you think the artist is portraying and how does this style inform your perception of the work?
- 3) Reflect on the title of this artwork: *Road to Lily Dale I*. Does the title change your understanding of the image? If so, how?

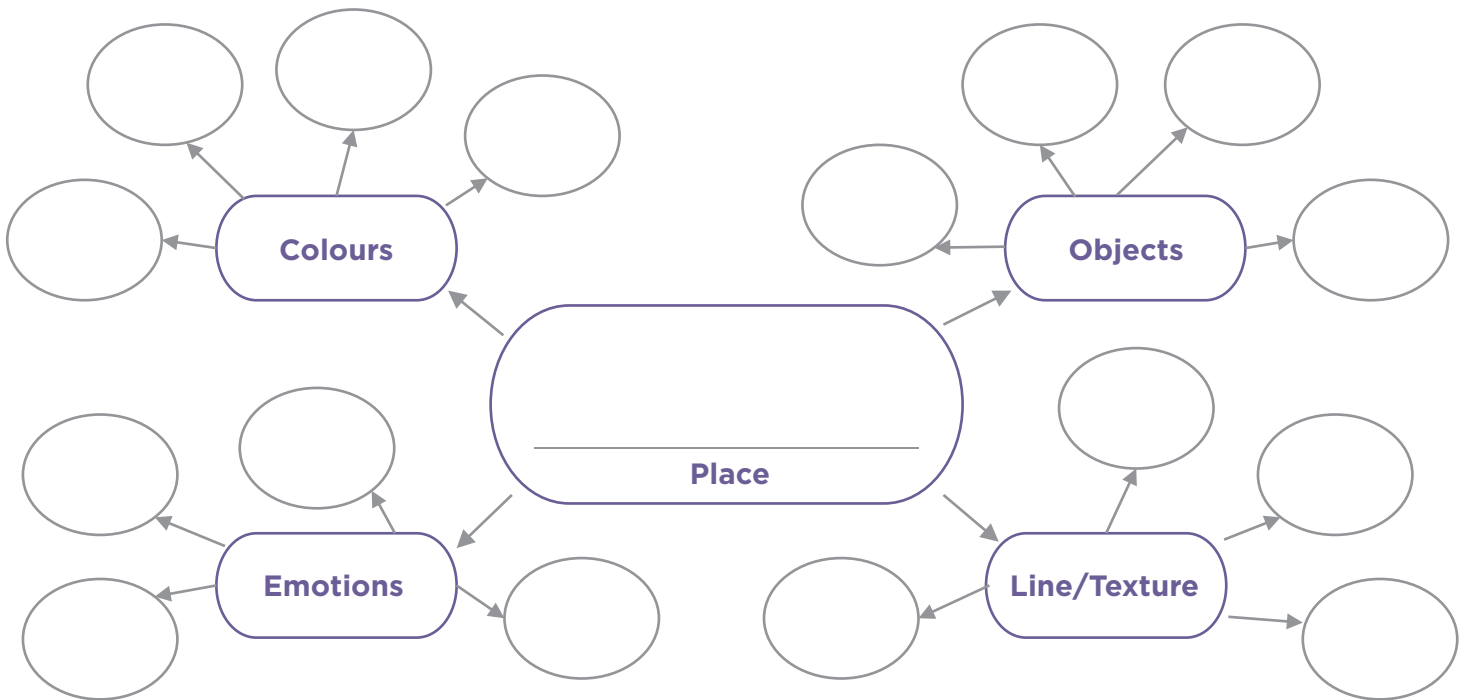
## LOOKING CLOSER

- 1) How do you think the artist feels about this place and what do you see that makes you think that?
- 2) Create a list of adjectives that you would use to describe this painting. Use those words to write a short paragraph that describes this artwork to someone who cannot see it.

# LOOKING INWARD

Monica Tap's paintings capture places that she has encountered or passed through. Think of a place you recall and use the mind map below to record your associations with that place. Feel free to add more bubbles if you'd like!

Use your mindmap to create a drawing that is a visual representation of this place.



# GET CREATIVE

In her painting, *Road to Lily Dale I*, Monica Tap's expressive brush strokes create a sense of movement and energy in the landscape. Learn a simple way to suggest motion and create texture using a paint scraping technique.



## MATERIALS

- A piece of paper (white or coloured paper will work)
- A pencil and eraser
- A black marker
- A small selection of paints (whatever you have on hand)
- A piece of cereal box cardboard and scissors
- Paper towels or a rag/cloth

## PREPARATION

- Cover your table or work surface with newspaper to protect it from paint
- Collect all of your materials and have them nearby

## PROCESS

**1)** Use a pencil to sketch out a simple tree trunk and its branches. When you are happy with your landscape sketch, trace your drawing with the marker. If your branches change or multiply in the tracing process, that's okay!

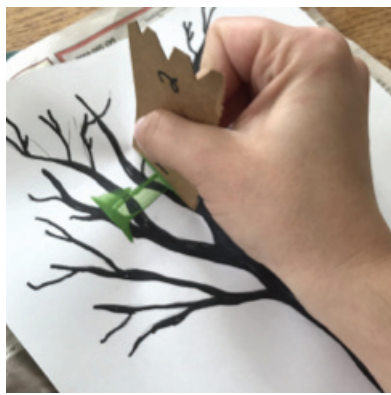
**2)** Prepare your paints in a palette or container and lay out some newspaper to protect your work surface. Use the scissors to cut the edges of your cardboard into a few different patterns.





# GET CREATIVE

**3)** Dip the shaped edge of your cardboard in the paint, and drag the cardboard across different parts of your tree in small sections to create thin layers of paint that suggest foliage. Experiment with layering different colours and patterns.



**4)** Add finishing touches such as grass at the base of your tree. For advanced artists, experiment with different tree forms and scraping techniques. Try using warm colours in highlighted areas and cool colours in shadows to suggest form.



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# LEARN

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Canadian artist Monica Tap lives in Toronto and is a professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of Guelph. The painting *Road to Lily Dale I* is part of a larger series in which Tap captures the act of passing through a space rather than an exact location, resulting in a delicate balance of landscape and abstraction.

Drawing inspiration from historic regional artist Homer Watson's three-month trip down the Grand River and his eventual arrival in Lily Dale in upstate New York, Tap's paintings also reflect the passage of time and how it affects both a place itself and our relation to it.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

With your class or a small group, discuss the questions below. Ask your students to think the questions over and discuss with a partner to help articulate their ideas before discussing the topics as a group.

- Rather than showing us photographs of this place, Tap uses paint to convey her impressions of it. Why do you think she made this choice and what is different about viewing a painting rather than a photograph?

- Monica Tap often considers themes of time and history in her works. How do you think *Road to Lily Dale I* connects to these themes?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### Community Walk/Drive:

Practice Monica Tap's artistic process in your own community. Use a digital camera to film your journey as you take a walk or drive through your community. When you return home, review the recorded footage. Do you notice any new details that you may have overlooked? Is there anything missing in the video that you recall experiencing in real life?

Take a few screenshots from your footage to investigate further. Choose one to start and sketch a few details from it on a piece of paper.

Use a second still to sketch more details on the same paper. Continue adding details from various video stills to create a layered drawing that captures your community trip. Try using a different coloured pencil for each layer of your drawing.

## ART TERMS

### MOVEMENT

A Principle of Art that is used to create the impression of action in a work of art.

### TEXTURE

An Element of Art that refers to the way a three-dimensional work of art may feel to the touch, or the perceived feel of a two-dimensional work of art.

### FORM

An Element of Art that refers to the width, height and depth of an object.

### MEDIUM

Refers to the material used to create an artwork. Combining or using multiple materials may be referred to as media.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Social Studies, analysis and critical thinking, Language - Creative Writing

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Artist Website: <http://www.monicatap.com>

Tap, Monica. Interviewed by Michael Hansen. ArtSync. 20 January 2011. Wynick Tuck Gallery. <https://vimeo.com/19263499>

Video of Monica Tap @ KWAG, 2007 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_lv38dQDGA8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lv38dQDGA8)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brower, Matthew. Séance: Monica Tap. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 2007.

University of Guelph Studio of Fine Arts and Music Faculty Profile <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sofam/people/monica-tap>