The Moon in Art

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With the current event of the blood moons, people are noticing the beauty of the moon in art. The moon reflects the sun. I had someone tell me the analogy of the moon reflects the light of the sun in the same way we reflect the love of God if we know him.   There are several wonderful pictures of the moon that make terrific art project ideas.

The first picture we will look at is the "Crimean Coast by Moonlight" by Ivan Aivazovsky. Aivazovsky was a Romanticist. Romanticism first showed itself in landscape painting, where from as early as the 1760s British artists began to paint beautiful and wild landscapes and storms, and Gothic architecture. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Moon_in_paintings#/media/File:Aivazovsky_Crimea_18 53.jpg   He is considered one of the greatest marine artists in history, famous for his beautiful seascapes. In the picture below, you see the dark areas on the top of the sky. Do you see the way the light falls on the water? The picture is done in cool colors. Blue, green and violet are cool colors. It creates a calm mood. A good project is to cut out the shape of an oval and copy this master work of art.

You can use a sponge for the texture on the trees.

Winslow Homer painted the picture below called "Eastern Point Light." Just as our previous artist Aivazovsky was known for his seascapes, Homer was an American landscape painter and printmaker, best known for his marine subjects. He is considered one of the foremost painters in 19th-century America and an important figure in American art.

This is a monochromatic color scheme. Monochromatic is when you use dark and light values of one color. You can take a blue color and add black and white paint and copy the picture "Eastern Point Light" to learn to create different dark and light values. Do you think this painting captures the silence that Mother Teresa talks about in the quote below?

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.

Mother Teresa

Finally we will look at "Moonlight" by Winslow Homer. In all three pictures in this tip of the day, you can see reflected moonlight in the water.   Notice that the picture has the couple setting a little off the center of the horizon line. Notice that the sky is darker at the top and there is a subtle light at the horizon line. Generally you want to come up about one third of the way from the top or bottom. You can read more about the rule of thirds at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_thirds

Do you notice the texture lines on the beach? Do you notice the waves in the water? When you paint a water reflection by the moon, you make both edges of the painting a darker blue and then transition to a lighter blue to nearly white below where the moon is. Here are some tips about painting reflections: http://www.finearttips.com/2010/06/tips-for-painting-water-and-reflection/

Joel 2:30-31

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.