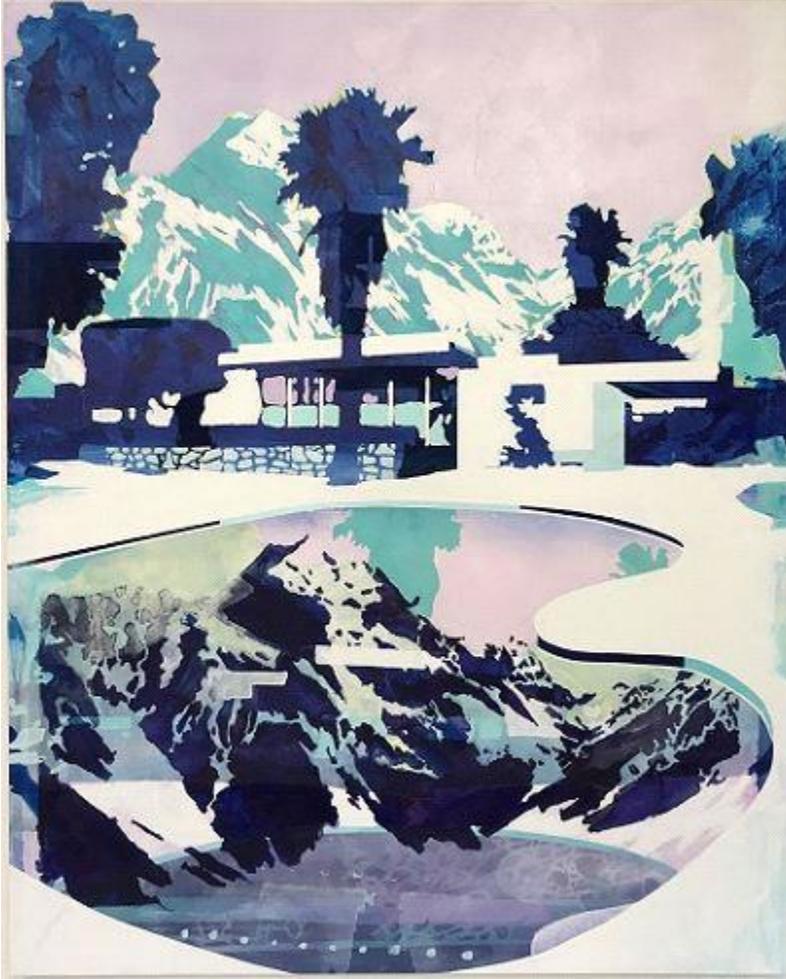


Reflective Stencils

Centennial Gifts exhibition



Paul Davies, *Landscape in Open Plan*

Introduction

Paul Davies is a contemporary Australian artist known for his paintings of mid-century Modern architecture. Made with hand-cut stencils from digital photographs, he employs psychedelic colors in treating the subject of man-made structures in nature. "I'm attracted to the contrast between the two, the idea that the built environment is a response to, or an attempt to control, the natural." Born in 1979 in Sydney, Australia, Davies studied at the University of New South Wales School of Art and Design, graduating with a BFA in 2000 and returning for an MFA in 2011. The artist currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

To introduce this lesson, look at *Landscape in Open Plan* with students.

Have them point out what they see. Discuss reflection and a repeated image. Ask: "Does this artwork depict man-made structures or nature?" "What message might the artist be examining?"

Discuss layering & juxtaposition. Have them notice that images are stacked on top of each other and that contrasting images are side by side.

Objectives

- Through this lesson, students will use their imaginations to create a stencil inspired by man-made structures and/or nature.
- They will experiment with repeating and layering images in their composition.
- Students will consider expressing a point of view or message with their imagery.

Postmodern Principles addressed*-

- **Layering**: images being literally piled on top of each other. Layered imagery evokes the complexity of the unconscious mind and the layered complexity of contemporary cultural life.
- **Juxtaposition**: things side-by-side. In art this usually is done with the intention of bringing out a specific quality or creating an effect, particularly when two contrasting or opposing elements are used.

Studio Habits of Mind addressed*-

- **Develop Craft**: Learning to use tools, materials, artistic conventions; and learning to care for tools, materials, and space.
- **Express**: Learning to create works that convey an idea, a feeling, or a personal meaning.

Materials

- Cardstock
- Scissors
- X-acto knife
- Mat board
- Paint
- Brush
- Paper
- Pencil or ink pen to complete composition

Steps

- Design a stencil inspired by man-made structures and/or nature on cardstock with pencil.
- Cut out stencil carefully using scissors and xacto knife on mat board.
- Place stencil on paper.
- Use paint to fill in stencil pattern on paper.
- Place stencil on paper again to create repetition of an image.
- Finish artwork by painting or drawing the remaining composition around the stencil.

Modifications

Have ready-made stencils

Reflection

Have a large butcher paper hanging on the wall, or covering a table that students can add onto with their stencil after completing their individual pieces. Share artworks and discuss their experience.

*https://naea.digication.com/omg/Postmodern_Principles

*<http://www.studiothinking.org>