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STEAM
ART

31009



Outside Wetlands of Lake Tahoe, Dottie Oatman

AGES
8+

shadow painting kit™

L I F E L I K E L A N D S C A P E S

Discover the artist within you as you create two works of art!
Learn the science behind color mixing as
you create unique colors of your own!

Safety information:

- ADULT SUPERVISION RECOMMENDED
- Read though all instructions before you begin.
- In case of contact with the eyes, rinse well with water.
- Wash hands thoroughly after each painting session.
- Conforms to ASTM D 4236

Getting started:

We are so glad you selected this paint kit! Whether you are an aspiring artist or just want to try painting for the first time, you will find that this kit will work for you.

You will find everything you need in this kit to paint two works of art and to display for all to see.

This is not a Paint by Numbers kit. Instead it is an illustration of artwork by a professional artist with shadows which you can use as a guide to paint. The final painting will be your creation.

If you want guidance on color, we have included a color guide as inspiration. Follow the guide or paint whatever color you choose!

What you get:

- 9" x 11" Printed Canvas
- 8" x 10" Printed Canvas
- Wooden Easel
- 0.4 oz. Acrylic Paint Tubes in 6 Colors: Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Black, White
- 3 Paint Brushes of Various Sizes
- 1 Mixing Palette
- 1 Color Wheel
- 1 Color Guide
- Instruction Booklet

What you need from home:

- Flat surface for painting (it is a good idea to add newspaper or cover to protect surface)
- Container with water to rinse paint between color applications
- Paper towel or old fabric towel to wipe excess water or paint from paint brush

History of painting:

The oldest known paintings are approximately 40,000 years old, found in caves in both Europe and Indonesia. The history of painting is documented through artifacts from pre-historic humans and spans all cultures. There are examples of cave paintings all over the world.

We do not know why the paintings were made. Were they to document a period in time? Or to capture an image of the natural world? Were they painted to communicate information? Or was it simply art? What we do know is that painting has provided humankind with a means of creative expression that continues today.

Color wheel:

Sir Isaac Newton is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time. Although he specialized in mathematics, physics and astronomy, one of his experiments lead to the theory that red, yellow and blue are primary colors from which all other colors stem from. He developed the first color wheel in 1666. This discovery was influential in the development of the color wheels artists use today.

Your kit includes a color wheel that can be used as a tool for color mixing and learning about color.

Painting basics:

Step 1: Decide which color you want to paint first. Squeeze a small dab of paint in one of the wells in your palette.

Step 2: Dip your brush in water and mix the watery brush and paint together.

Step 3: If you like the color, go ahead and apply it to your artwork. If you want to make the color lighter or darker, use the empty wells to mix and create your own colors.

If you choose a color you don't like, you can let the paint dry and paint over it or wipe it up before it dries! You are the artist. It is up to you to decide.

Mixing colors is like a fun science experiment or cooking up a new recipe—new discoveries are always in the making. See what new colors you can invent!

- You can make your paint color thinner by mixing in a few droplets of water.
- You can make a color lighter by mixing white to turn red to pink or dark blue to sky blue.
- To make shadow colors, you can try several options:
 - Mix a little darker color with your bright lighter color, for example, a little more red with the yellow to make a red-orange.
 - Combine black and white together to make gray, and mix a little of that in with your brighter color to make its shadow.
 - Use the darker complementary color (the color directly across from a color on the color wheel) as the shadow color, for example a yellow flower may have some purple in its shadow.
 - Mix two complementary colors together and use it to shadow the brighter color.
 - Blend the primary colors together to make wonderful shades of black.

After your painting session:

When you are done with your painting session be sure to:

- Wipe off the edges of your paint tube and close the tube tightly.
- Wash your paint brush thoroughly with water. You can use a small amount of soap if needed.
- Allow your brush to dry thoroughly before you put away.
- The best way to clean your paint palette is to do it while your paint is still wet.
- Acrylic paint will dry into a hard-acrylic resin. If paint is dry, you can peel it straight off the palette.
- For stubborn paints that remain, soak the palette overnight, then clean as needed.

Options for hanging:

- Hang your 9" x 11" flat canvas on a wall.
- Display your 8" x 10" canvas in the wooden easel.
- You can frame your canvas.
- You can purchase a cardboard mat to frame your canvas.

You have now mastered shadow painting, painting with acrylic paint and, color mixing all while creating a lovely work of art. Who knew learning could be so much fun?

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Children are natural scientists

They try to figure out how the world works by engaging in the scientific method. This includes observing, forming questions, making predictions and experimenting.

All of our STEAM products apply the scientific method to the activities contained in these kits.

About the artist:

Dottie Oatman is the artist who created the illustrations in this kit.

Dottie is a life-long artist who grew up in Kansas City. As a child, Dottie loved making art of all kinds. By the age of 8, she even created her own greeting card company and made cards for family and friends!



Dottie's love of art continued into adulthood where she studied art in college. Today Dottie not only paints, she also leads other painters on art trips around the world. Dottie teaches art classes so others can learn to paint and possibly develop a love of creating art as she has.

“I want my paintings to come alive with freshness, to sing with color, to wallow in rich shadows...”

— Dottie Oatman

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