

Studio Saturdays: Environmentalism 1-Point Perspective

Rollins
Museum
of Art

Manufacturing #18... by Edward Burtynsky



Edward Burtynsky

*Manufacturing #18, Cankun Factory,
Zhangzhou Fujian Province, China, 2005*

2005

Dye coupler print

40 x 60 in.

LIST OF MATERIALS

- White paper
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Colored pencils

Edward Burtynsky is an American artist who uses photography to discuss industrialization and the environment. Industrialization is what happens when the way a country makes its money changes from one business to another. China started as a country focused on farming and then experienced very fast industrialization to big businesses that use factories to make products. This photograph, titled Manufacturing #18, Cankun Factory, Zhangzhou Fujian Province, China, 2005, is part of a larger series of photographs Burtynsky has taken. In the series, he photographs old, empty factories, and new factories that are full of people. He contrasts these two sides of factory production in China to show the negative effects of industrialization on the people and the environment in the country.

In this photograph, Burtynsky uses repeating subjects and one-point perspective to show the large number of people who work in the factories, and how large the factories are. One-point perspective in an artwork means that all things in the image line up along invisible lines to one specific “point” on the horizon line. The horizon line is the “line” that separates the ground and the sky. One-point perspective is used in drawings and paintings to mimic how things look smaller when they are farther away in real life. This makes the artwork look life-like. In this photograph, we can see an example of a natural one-point perspective.

For today's activity, we will learn how to draw from a one-point perspective by creating a drawing inspired by our environment. Think about your neighborhood, town, or state. How would industrialization affect the nature around you? Or, if you live in an area that is already industrial, what do you think it may have looked like before factories and businesses started building there? Splitting our drawing down the middle, we will contrast those two different environments in one picture, the same way Edward Burtynsky uses his photographs to contrast old and new factories.

THINK LIKE AN ARTIST

- 1) What changes have you seen in your environment during your life?
- 2) Would you rather live in a farming society or an industrial society?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a ruler to measure 6 1/2 inches on the edge of the paper, mark it with a line and repeat on the other side. Connect the two marks with a horizontal line. This is the horizon line.
2. Draw a dot at the 5 1/2 mark on the ruler. This is the vanishing point.
3. Mark with a line 1inch from the bottom of the page on both sides. Connect the ruler to the vanishing point and draw a line. Draw a mark 1/2 inch up the side of the paper, connect to the vanishing point. This creates a sidewalk and a road.
4. Draw two marks in the bottom center of the paper. Connect to the vanishing point. Turn the lines into rectangles to create the dashed lines in the road.
5. Use the ruler to draw lines on the sidewalk.
6. On the left side draw your neighborhood as you see it now. On the right draw what your neighborhood would look like if it was affected by environmental pollution. If your neighborhood has already been affected by environmentalist production, then you can draw what it would look like if it wasn't.
7. Color with colored pencils.