

Get
smART!

THE ART COLONY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

ART COLONY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

St. Augustine has been at the crossroads of Florida's evolving art culture for centuries. The discovery of the New World prompted French artist Jacques LeMoine to fill sketchbooks with drawings of Timucuan Indians. Naturalist John James Audubon found inspiration here for his detailed paintings of birds. Land Developer Henry Flagler lured famous painters and artisans to his Renaissance-inspired hotels with well-appointed art studios and wealthy patrons. That trend continued in the early 20th century when civic leaders promoted the city's beauty with magazine ads that read, "Like Painting in Europe." Northern artists flocked to the sunny town to spend winters painting the picturesque streets and coastal byways. With the rise of abstract modernism, however, artists abandoned painting the landscapes so popular with tourists, and the art colony faded. St. Augustine's art scene has now re-blossomed with monthly Art Walks and many new galleries.



Plein air artists
at the Castillo de San Marcos
St. Augustine, circa 1950



"The Art Center"
Charles Dickinson, St. Augustine Painter,
2011

THE "LOST COLONY" AND THE ST. AUGUSTINE ART ASSOCIATION

One chilly night in January 1924, several writers and painters gathered in St. Augustine to form a club for all of the arts. They called it the Galleon Arts Club. From the 1930s–1950s, the group, consisting of local artists and those wintering in the town, created a lively cultural scene. They installed exhibits, organized fiestas and hosted masquerade balls in the Lightner Museum. The club adopted its present name in 1948. After purchasing property in the historic district, the Art Association broke ground for an Art Center. The Spanish-inspired gallery was expanded in the 1990s to support the growing membership and art activities and to house a collection of local art. Today, juried art exhibitions, children's programs, workshops, concerts, films and special events energize the art community. While the artists of the early years became known as the "Lost Colony," they left an important legacy of fine art that remains a focus throughout St. Augustine.

EXPLORE!

► The streets of St. Augustine have been a common subject for the artists of many generations.

Take a walk down these well-known historic streets.

Since these artworks were created, what has changed? What has stayed the same?



Aviles Street
“Fiesta” - linoleum block print (detail)

Celia Gregor Reid, 1948
Permanent Collection, STAAA



St. George Street
“St. George St., Looking South”

Emmett Fritz, 1949
Permanent Collection, STAAA

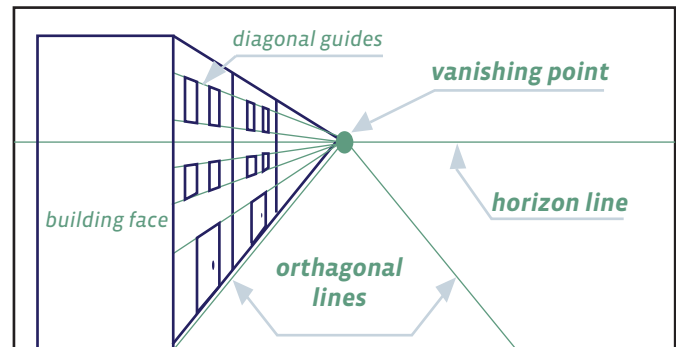
LEARN!

► ***One-point perspective*** is a simple form of linear perspective used by many artists to make 2-d or flat drawings appear 3-d or realistic.

You can make your own realistic street drawings using one-point perspective, just like Emmett Fritz!

1. Draw a horizontal line across the middle of a blank piece of paper. This will be your **horizon line**.
2. Draw a dot in the middle of your horizon line. This will be your **vanishing point**.
3. Draw two diagonal lines starting at the vanishing point and ending at the bottom of your paper to make your street. These will be your **orthogonal lines**.
4. Draw a rectangle on the left side of the street. This will be the face of your first building.
5. Draw diagonal lines from the corners of your rectangle to the vanishing point.

CREATE!



6. Draw straight vertical lines that start and end at the diagonal lines that you just drew. This will make more than one building.
7. Draw more diagonal lines radiating from the vanishing point as guides for your windows and doors.
8. Draw in your windows and doors. The trick is to make them out of straight lines, fitting between two diagonal guides that you have drawn radiating from the vanishing point.

You've done it!