

Scenes Seen from Above

From the FAM permanent collection



Sandy Litchfield (American, b. 1966), *Butter Fed Grass*, 2014, oil and acrylic on canvas.
Sinon Collection Fund, acquired in honor of FAM Trustee Nadine Martel, 2015.100

About the Artist

Sandy Litchfield is a painter and Professor at the University of Massachusetts Department of Architecture. Her artworks have been exhibited in many museums and art galleries. You can see many more of her colorful painting on her website <https://sandylitchfield.com/recent>.

Sometimes Sandy Litchfield uses bird's-eye-view (aerial) drawings of places as the basis for her paintings, but she recreates the scene in her own special style. Before making a large painting, she makes a smaller version to test the colors and composition.

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Looking for Inspiration

- When you first looked at this painting, where did your eye go first? Why do you think that happened?
- Be sure to look at all parts of this painting. This painting shows us a scene from a birds-eye, or aerial, view. Point out the parts where you can see this clearly.
- Notice the parts in which you can recognize buildings, and the parts that look like odd shapes of color. If this is a landscape, what could those odd shapes be? What do you see that makes you say that?

Materials Painting or drawing supplies

Instructions Try Litchfield's method to make your paintings unique!

- Find a photograph taken from the air in a magazine or online.
- Using only a few lines, sketch the photograph on a piece of watercolor paper.
- Think about what parts you want to make more realistic, and which parts you want to show as shapes of colors.
- Make a painting based on your sketch. Use the sketch as a suggestion for your painting's composition, but feel free to change it as you paint.

**Sandy Litchfield wrote a poem about her landscape painting.
Try writing a poem about your painting!**

Butter Fed Grass

milk turns yellow in the summer
when cows eat grass from the field
we know this from our visit to the farm

their yellow cream flows into
a stream with scalloped edges
it churns and swells and curds

we spread this butter and swallow
swallow the hills, swallow the spills
funny food we had forgotten
morning mush, milk, mom

the downward country plays
its grassy rhythm and swing
we bounce across the same bridge
over and over (the sane bridge)
a long road that loops
back and forth

we are all over the place
which is better, you insist
than being right here

-Sandy Litchfield

Pasto alimentado con mantequilla

la leche se torna amarilla en el verano
cuando las vacas comen hierba del campo
sabemos esto desde nuestra visita a la granja

su crema amarilla fluye en
el arroyo con bordes ondulados
se arremolina y olea y cuaja

untamos esta mantequilla y engullimos
engullimos las colinas, engullimos los
derrames
comida graciosa que habíamos olvidado
papilla por la mañana, leche, mamá

el país en descenso toca
su ritmo yerboso y swing
rebotamos al otro lado del mismo puente
una y otra vez (el puente de la sanidad)
un largo camino que curva
de ida y vuelta

estamos por todo el lugar
cuál es mejor, tú insistes
que el estar aquí

-Sandy Litchfield