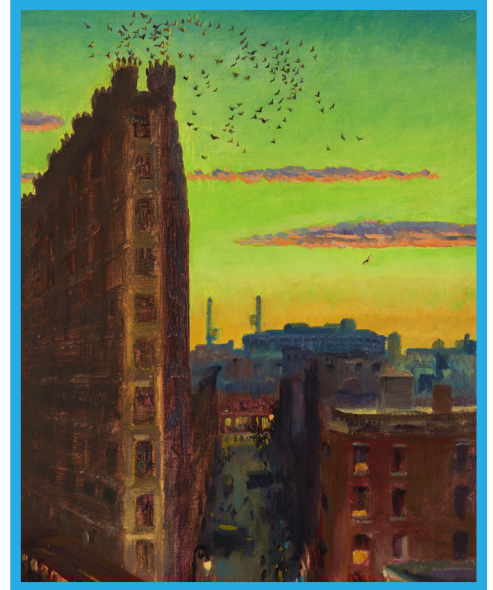# SMALL WORLD, BIG IDEAS

Have you noticed that things look bigger if they are close to you and smaller if they are further away? This is **PERSPECTIVE**. Perspective makes things look three dimensional and creates a sense of depth.

A **SCALE MODEL** is a representation or copy of an object or scene that is smaller than its size in real life.

The **FOREGROUND** is the part of a scene that is closest to the viewer.

The **BACKGROUND** is the part of a scene that is farther away.

Take a look at the artwork from *A Civic Wilderness* on the right. Can you spot which buildings are in the foreground and which buildings are in the background? The buildings in the foreground appear larger because they are closer to the viewer. The buildings in the background appear smaller and have less detail because they are farther away. Artists use these tools to make a scene look more realistic and three dimensional, like in the scale model project samples below.

John Sloan, *Cornelia Street*, 1920, oil on canvas

The buildings and windows become smaller as they get farther away from the viewer.

The tree in the foreground is larger and more detailed than the trees in the background.

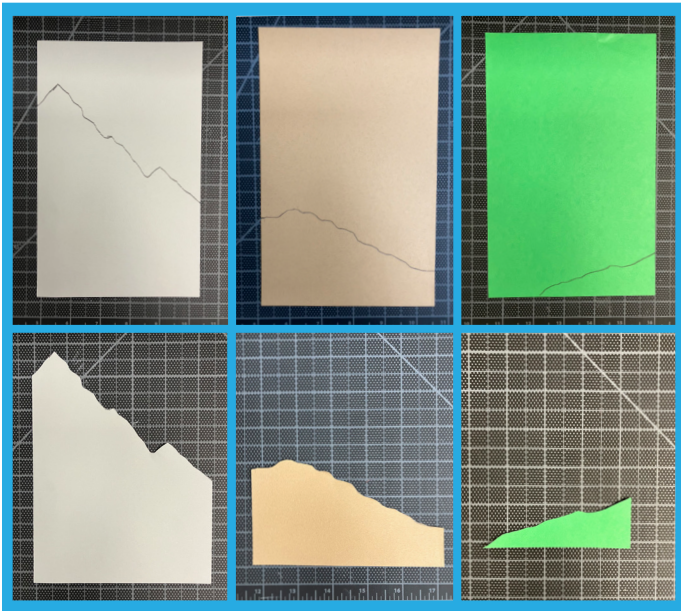The birds in the sky have no detail so they appear as if they are in the distance.
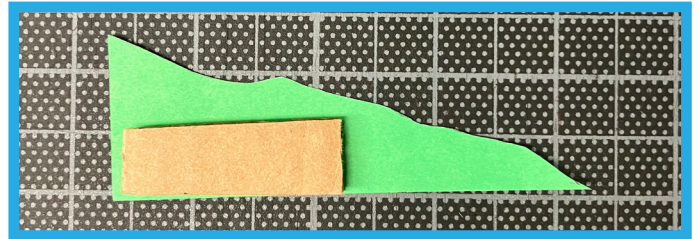
BUILD YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT

1. Use the colored paper provided and sketch outlines to create different layers for your scene. Is your scene in a city, on the beach, in the mountains, or somewhere else? Think about how you can use these layers to create the illusion of depth. Remember that the objects in the foreground should appear larger than the ones in the background. Then, cut along the lines you have drawn.

2. Use the white gel pen and black charcoal pencil to add detail and texture to the layers.

3. Use the cardboard provided as spacers to help create dimension. Cut the cardboard into smaller pieces as necessary. Glue the pieces to the back of your layers.

4. Finally, stack the layers you have made and glue them together to create your masterpiece.

SHARE YOUR ARTWORK WITH US!

BONUS: Add plants, trees, animals, or people to complete your scene.