

# CHARLES DEMUTH

Materials | **The Great Figure** by William Carlos Williams | Important Facts

## MATERIALS

- Paper
- Oil Pastels
- Pencil
- Watercolor Paints
- Ruler

## "THE GREAT FIGURE"

Among the rain  
and lights  
I saw the figure 5  
in gold  
on a red  
firetruck  
moving  
tense  
unheeded  
to gong clangs  
siren howls  
and wheels rumbling  
through the dark city.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

- Born: 11-8-1883, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, America
- Precisionist Movement
- Painted in his own backyard
- I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold



## CHARLES DEMUTH

Best known for his use of watercolor to portray the industrial and natural landscapes of his hometown in Pennsylvania.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose favorite number and write it large, then repeat the same number 3 times - getting *progressively* smaller with oil pastel..
2. Draw 3 circles and 3 diagonal lines with oil pastel - *random repetition for asymmetrical balance*
3. Use watercolor to add color

\*Oil pastel resists the water liquid watercolor while the paint stacks into paper, it just beads off the oil pastel line.

## CHARLES DEMUTH

- Best known for his use of watercolor to portray the industrial and natural landscapes of his hometown in Pennsylvania
  - Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on 8 November 1883
  - Known for the Precisionist Movement. Precisionist artists reduced subjects to their essential geometric shapes, eliminating details, and often used planes of light to create a sense of crisp focus and suggest the sleekness and sheen of machine forms. They strived for visual order & clarity; "celebration of technology and expression of speed through dynamic composition." ~ Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Precisionism (or Cubist Realism) and Art Deco rose up simultaneously; both emphasized the new industrialization and modernism that occurred after the conclusion of World War I. They relied heavily upon the use of geometric forms due to the influence of the Picas" Cubist Movement. Both group of artists avoided social and political commentary.
  - Painted in his own backyard (a second story studio that overlooked a garden) eg: My Egypt (1927)
  - I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold (1929)
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## INTRO TO THE PROJECT

- 1) Show painting by Charles Demuth and read "The Great Figure" by William Carlos Williams
- 2) Note the different *Lines, Shapes, and Colors* to show *Movement* and *Unity* through (*random*) *Repetition*