

SAILING HOME: REFLECTIONS OF EXODUS IN ART

SEASCAPE WATERCOLOR RESIST PAINTING

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Exodus of 1947. The Sailing Home™ Project art activity will allow you to reflect on the experience and visions of the Holocaust survivors that were sailing to the Land of Israel to establish a new home in the Jewish Homeland when they were ambushed by the British navy.

About the Exodus:

Over 4500 survivors, Haganah fighters, and volunteer crew members aboard Exodus 1947 were stopped by the British to prevent the Jewish people from reaching their homeland. Their dream of sailing home after surviving the horrors of the Holocaust was destroyed by the harsh treatment and subsequent incarceration in prison boats and deportation back to displaced persons camps in Germany. Many had to wait a long time to rebuild their lives, eventually reaching the Land of Israel nearly 2 years later. Sailing Home invites you to learn and reflect on the experience and its significance through artistic expression.

About the art:

The watercolor resist painting technique differs from a regular watercolor painting, in that it involves the application of oil pastels prior to applying watercolor paint. The artist draws/colors their images in oil pastels and then applies watercolor paint to their paper/canvas. Since oil and water do not mix, the oil pastels fight the water and remain in the same condition as they were when applied; whereas the watercolor paint will be “watery and painty”.

Objectives: To teach the history of the Exodus 1947 and to have students create their own artwork that reflects on actual images from the Exodus 1947.

Age Range: All ages

This watercolor seascape art lesson makes for a experiential learning project that doesn't compromise fun or interest for simplicity, making it a great activity for kids. It gives artists of all ages and levels of knowledge and ability the opportunity to explore a new medium and a new approach to showcasing history.



Supplies Needed:

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Oil pastels
- Paintbrushes
- Water and bowls
- Plastic table covering
- Paper towels
- Photocopied images of the President Warfield/Exodus 1947 ship
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Images of the Exodus 1947 ship are provided and should be printed out for the students to paste on top of their watercolor painting, allowing for a paper collage effect that can be very powerful. Images of the Haifa landscape are also provided to enable the participants to see what it looked like at that time.

Activity Set-up Requirements:

Place 3 small bowls/containers per each group of 2 students.

Place at least 2-4 paint brushes per bowl.

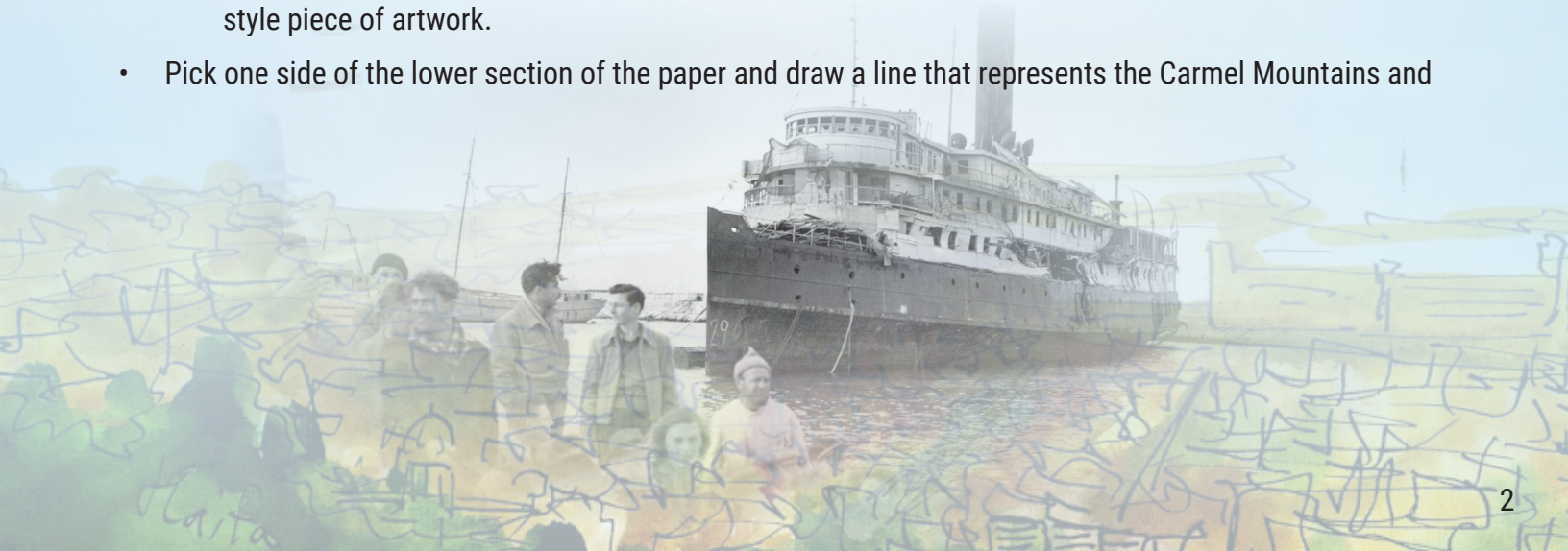
Provide 2 larger containers/pitchers of water that should be placed between each group of 6 students. One pitcher should be filled with clean water and the other one will be ready to dump the “dirty watercolor painting water” into throughout the activity.

Step One:

- Place your watercolor paper horizontally (landscape). Divide your paper/canvas into two sections. The bottom half should be larger than your top half. Think about whether you want your painting to be a daytime or nighttime image.
- In the top portion of your paper, use oil pastels to draw/color the sky that you envision above the Exodus: puffy white clouds, a sun for daytime skies or stars and a moon for a nighttime sky, birds, etc.

Everything you draw with oil pastels, will stay oil pastels and not mix with the paint - the oil pastels literally resist the watercolor. In the art world, it is referred to as Watercolor Resist Technique. Oil and water never mix, so everything oil pastel remains oil pastel, and everything waterbased turns to pretty watercolor paint. The combination makes for a creative, collage style piece of artwork.

- Pick one side of the lower section of the paper and draw a line that represents the Carmel Mountains and



the Haifa coast.

- For your shoreline, you can draw a curvy line. These are called your horizon lines where your land meets your sky.

Step Two: Land, Sky, Water

- Once you draw your horizon, you will fill in the landscape as you think the Exodus passengers envisioned it. You can draw trees or bushes with pretty flowers with colorful pastels by the mountain, houses nestled in, buildings along the port rocks along the shoreline, even waves in the water - anything you imagine was part of the passengers view from on board the ship.
- Once your mountainview is complete, begin to paint in your sky. You will feel the sky come to life as you add color, thinking of the sky above the Exodus and the passengers after their arduous journey at sea. To paint a morning dawn sky, use can use pale pinks, purples and light blues. If you want a sunny mid day, use shades of yellow. If it is a bright blue sky, use a light blue. If it is sunset, you can layer reds, yellows and oranges or an ombre effect where shades of one color will cascade from light to dark.

** As you paint your sky, you will see the clouds you drew in oil pastel (in the first steps of the project) appear through the watercolor paint. You will even be able to feel the oil pastel, and you may even see water droplets beading up on top of the pastel and running off or dripping downward if you hold your paper vertically.*

- As an affirmation of the purpose of the Exodus journey, find a spot somewhere on your mountain or your shoreline and paint an Israeli Flag. Using blue and white pastels, the flag can be waving from a tall pole, attached to a house, even being held up by a person on shore.

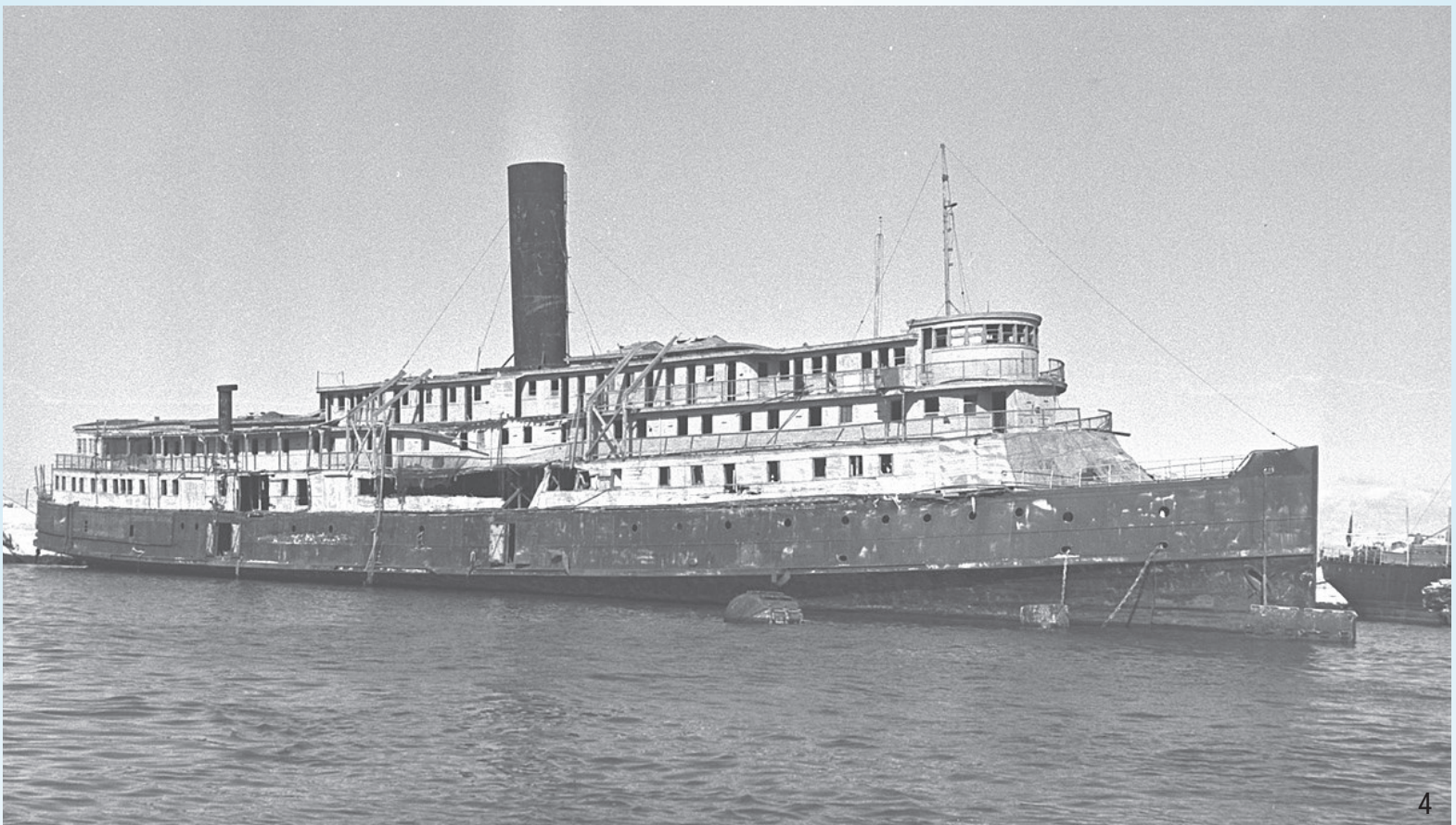
Step Three:

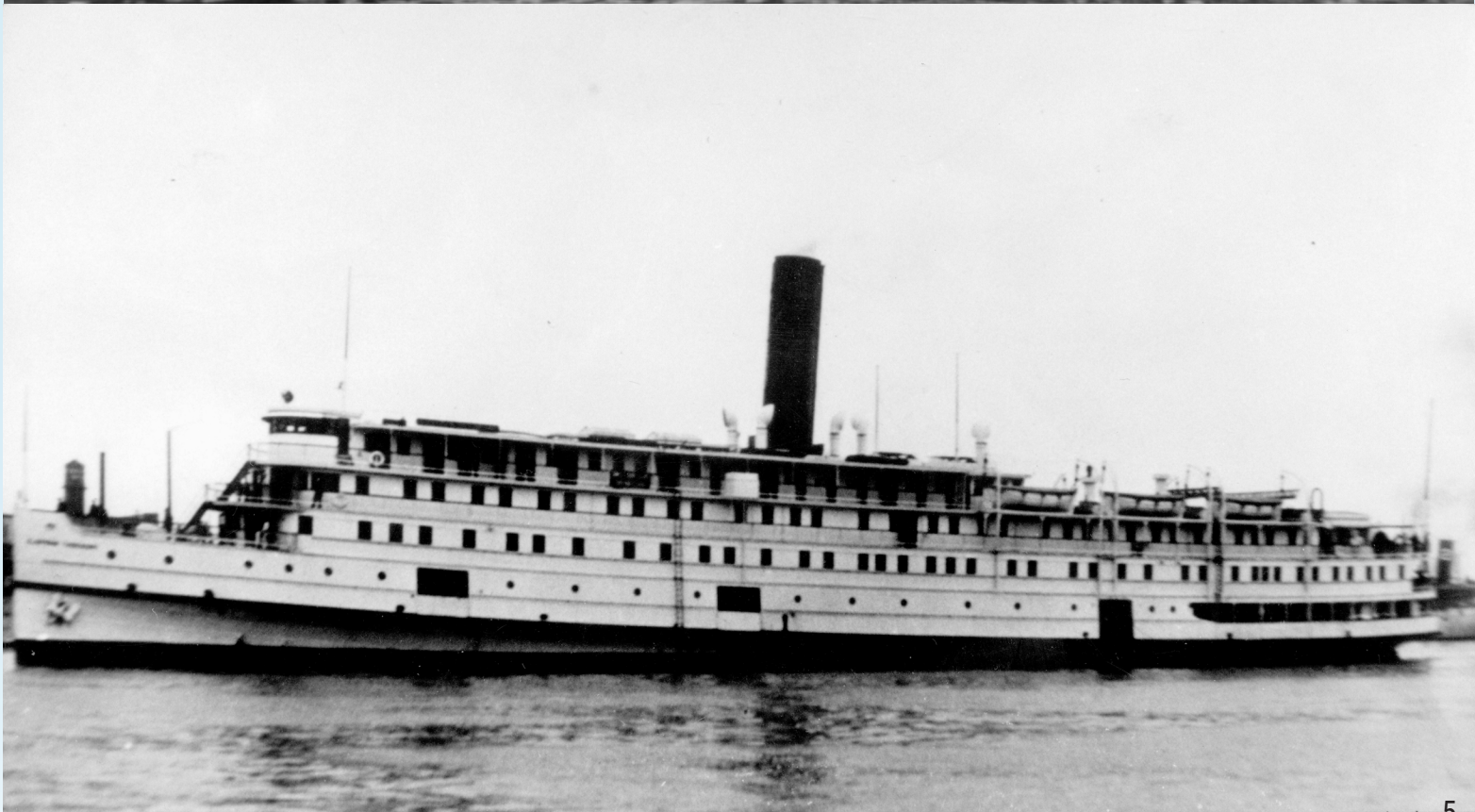
- Select from the photos provided of the actual Exodus of 1947 ship. Students should cut out the ship from the image of their choice and glue down onto the ocean facing the shoreline and mountains.
- As an alternative for older participants, participants can add more detail, or even depictions of the boat instead of using the photographs. Personal touches are a part of all artistic creations.

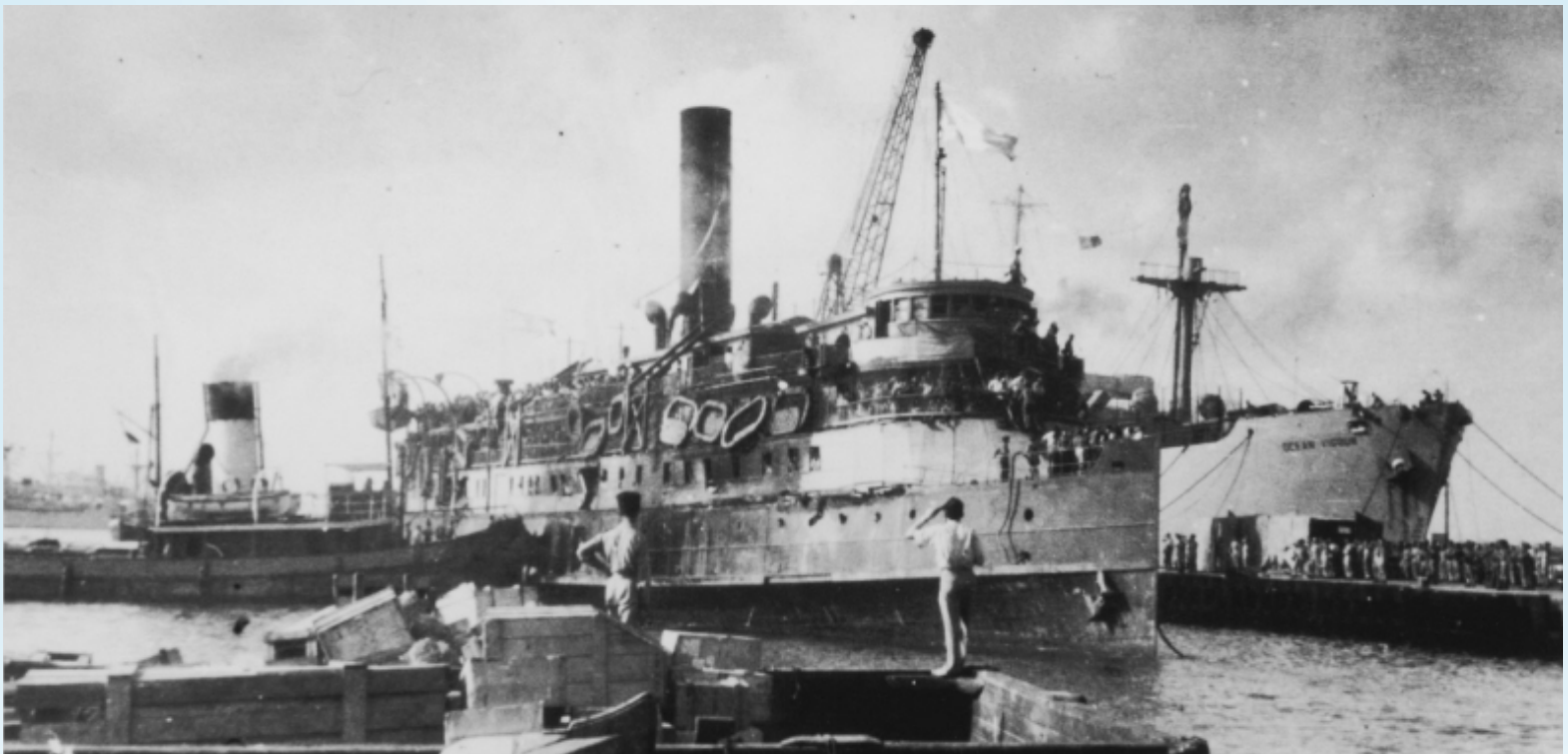
Share your Sailing Home creations and inspire others! Send images of your works to heidi@israelforever.org to be featured in our arts gallery.



Images of the Exodus







Depictions of Haifa

