

Guided Critique

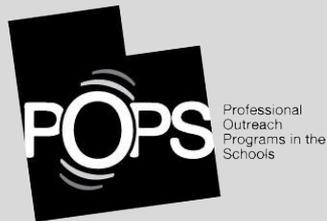
James Christensen

Fantasies of the Sea, 1985

acrylic on board

Springville Museum of Art Collection

Grade Level: K-2





Describe

Look at this painting and describe what you see.

1. What colors can you find?
2. What shapes do you see? *Try to name at least 4*
3. How many different types of fish or sea creatures do you see?
4. What kinds of plants do you see?
5. Can you find a jellyfish?
6. Can you find 3 mermaids?



Respond

1. If you could be any of the fish or creatures in this painting, who would you be? Why?
2. How would you describe this habitat, the place where the fish and creatures live?
 - a. How does it compare to where you live?
 - b. What is different?
 - c. What is the same?
3. Does this painting remind you of any books you've read or movies or shows you've watched? Which ones?



Imagine

1. Choose one of the fish or sea creatures in this painting
2. What is their name?
3. What kind of personality do they have?
4. Where are they going?
5. What will they do when they get there?
6. What is their favorite food?
7. What do they like to do for fun?



Create

Using materials you can find at home, draw or create an underwater home for your character.

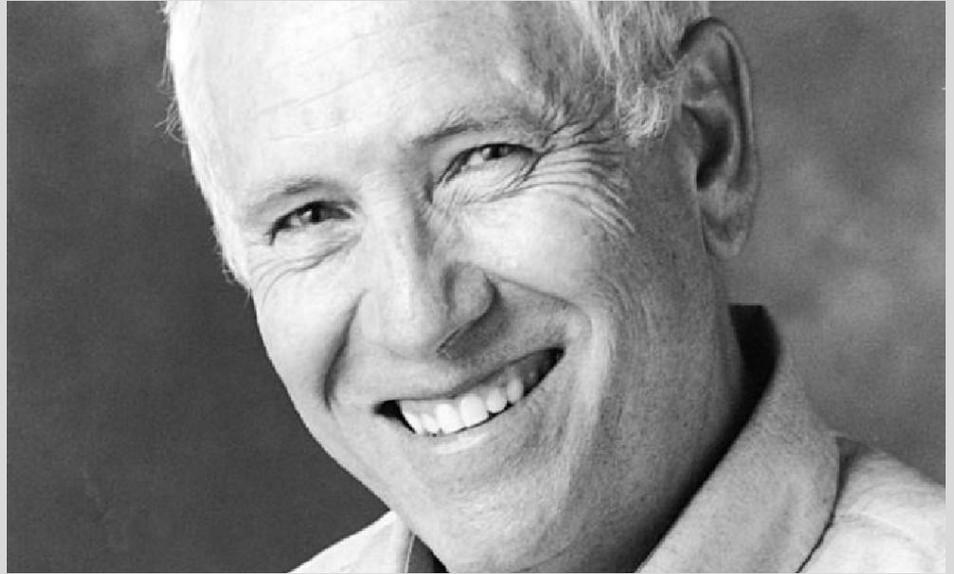
- Is your home small or big?
- What kind of decorations does your sea creature have?
- Does your sea creature have a pet?
- Is it messy or clean?

Context

James Christensen (1942-2017) is a Utah fantasy artist who LOVED using his imagination! The type of art he makes is called fantasy art.

Fantasy art is a type of art that shows magical and imaginary ideas, creatures or settings.

Can you think of any books or movies that would be considered fantasy?



"My aim always begins with a desire to connect with imagination. My work is an invitation to let your imagination run wild, explore, and make interpretations spontaneously."

- James Calvin Christensen



Conclude

1. What did you learn about this artwork or artist today?
2. What was your favorite part of this activity?

Further Learning

- Write a story about your sea creature. What is a problem they run into under the sea? How do they solve it?
- Read a story about sea creatures. If you don't have a book at home check out these youtube links
 - Dr. Seuss, *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLpZE32QG5g>
 - Marcus Pfister, *The Rainbow Fish*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFORvXhub28>
 - Deborah Diesen, *The Pout Pout Fish* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqupxANpqlE>
 - **CONNECT: How do the illustrations in these books of fish and sea creatures compare to James Christensen's painting? How are they the same? How are they different? Which do you like better?**