

# Night Skies with Eric Tautkus

## An ART KIT collaborating with Salem on the Edge

**YOU WILL NEED:** Watercolor set, watercolor paper, paintbrush, black paper, glue stick, white tempera paint, salt (optional)

**LINKS:**

Check out a short YouTube video for an introduction to using watercolors to create a skyscape using salt crystals: [Out of the Box: Art Activities for Kids | Salt Crystal Watercolor with Sonia Allen](#)

**NIGHT SKIES: Watercolor / Mixed Media**

**Look.** Examine these four panels from Eric’s current exhibit at Salem on the Edge. Do you recognize the shadowy shapes? A silhouette is the dark outline that’s created when a person or object is viewed against a light background.



When you look outside at night, what kind of silhouettes are visible? This activity will create silhouettes against a night skyscape.



**Paint a “wash”.** Tape down the sides of the paper. Dampen each watercolor with a few drops of paint, to soften the paints. Using the tip of the paintbrush and water, start choosing a few dark colors to paint a night sky.

Eric Tautkus' work is on display at Salem on the Edge until October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Add to the skyscape using white tempera paint and/or salt crystals (optional).** While the paint is wet, drop salt crystals randomly on the skyscape. See how the salt absorbs the color? Leave the painting to dry (at least an hour). Or, once the paint has dried, use a paintbrush and a little white paint to splatter “stars” on your sky. This only requires a short flick of the wrist, try to control where the paint goes!

**Create a silhouette.** Using black paper, cut or tear out the design of a silhouette. Arrange the black paper on top of the skyscape and glue it down. What are some other silhouettes that occur in the evening? Can you do this activity again with a different silhouette?

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*You could win an artwork by Eric Tautkus! Enter your name in the drawing by visiting Salem on the Edge and mentioning this art lesson!*