



**GUS D'ANGELO: Illustrator & Animator, Author of “National Parks A to Z” (2022, Mountaineers Books)**

**BIO:** Gus D'Angelo first fell in love with the outdoors as a child, hiking, fishing, and snowshoeing with his three brothers on his family's farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. These early adventures led to his passion for public lands and his hope that all young people get to experience the thrill, mystery, and solitude of the outdoors. Author of San Francisco ABCs and New York ABCs, Gus is an illustrator and animator who now lives in San Francisco with his partner, filmmaker Jennifer Kroot.

**ArtSeed Statement:** I work out of the Tides co-working space and have seen many of the amazing ArtSeed artists' work throughout the hallways. I met Josefa and we talked about my conducting an ArtSeed workshop on how I approach drawing in the field and my process of rendering these sketches into finished book illustrations. I hope this workshop inspires the young artists as much of their work on display inspires me.

**Title:** Children's Book Illustration Workshop

**Date:** Saturday, August 13

**Time:** 2-4pm

**Artist:** Gus

**Materials/Prep:** Any drawing media you are comfortable using, such as pencils, inks, paints, paper, tracing paper, erasers, etc; and possibly images of outdoors spaces you feel are special.

**Introduction/Goals:**

Show the book and explain my goals with the project.

Talk about how to capture the “feel” of a place and sketch these experiences

Illustrate the full evolution – “field to finished” – of the “Voyageurs” page from *National Parks A to Z*

sketchbook drawings from Voyageurs National Park

tracing paper roughs and composites

inking in Adobe Photoshop

coloring and textures in Adobe Illustrator

Introduce our activity of creating an illustration similar to a page from the book

**Activity:**

We will start by thinking about a special location and jotting down notes or sketches – what elements and sensory perceptions make it feel special? Next, using alliteration as in the book, we will select a letter of the alphabet and a corresponding park, animal, and activity people do in that park. We will then try to render an engaging book illustration that captures the emotional feel of the location.

**Vocabulary:**

Outdoors  
Experience  
Feel  
Composite  
Alliteration

**Closing:** The students should feel inspired to trying to capture the “feel” of special places and expressing this emotional experience in their art.

**Successes:**

Finished, illustrated book page  
Awareness to capturing “feel of place” in your artwork

**Challenges:**

Tuning out distractions  
Focusing on the present, feel, and emotional experience  
Rendering emotional experience so that viewers can share in the feeling

**Relevant Artists and Distinguished People:**

W.W. Denslow, *Wizard of Oz* illustrator  
Tom Killion, California print artist  
Camille Seaman, Photographer  
Marvin Gaye, *What's Going On?*  
Mimi Robinson, Point Reyes painter, *Local Color*  
Japanese print artists, Boston Museum of Fine Arts collection  
Japanese Haiku poets, RH Blythe 4 volume set (1940s)  
Jose Tablada, Mexican “Haiku” poet and artist, *Un Dia* (1919)

**A jackrabbit jams at Joshua Tree.**

Where the Mojave and Colorado Deserts meet in Southern California is Joshua Tree National Park and its Joshua trees. With their fantastical twisty branches and spiky leaves, they look like something drawn by Dr. Seuss! Equally funky rock formations attract climbers, who “jam” by inserting and twisting a hand or foot into a rock crack to create a secure hold. The black-tailed jackrabbit’s enormous ears aren’t just for hearing—they also radiate heat, helping to keep the jackrabbit cool in the baking desert temperatures.