

Art A Day CHALLENGE: GET OUTSIDE!

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE



Stuff you'll Need: a hard surface like a clip board and art making materials of your choice: paper/or canvas, markers/crayons/ paint (brushes, water, cup)/or pastels, a bag or bin for supplies, and an old towel or blanket.

Words you need to know:

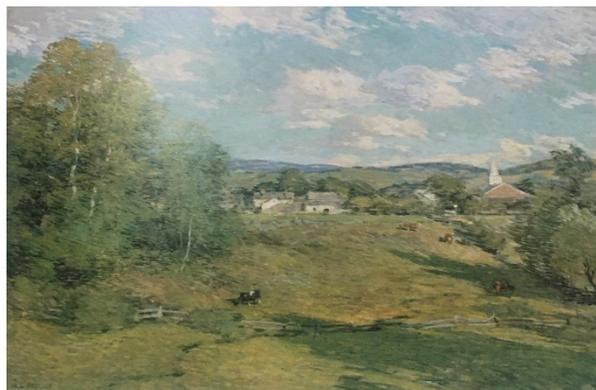
Plein air- the act of painting outside (French). **Landscape**- a picture representing land. The **foreground** of a landscape is the part that appears closest to the viewer, while the **background** is the area that is furthest from the viewer. The **middle ground** is the section located between both the **foreground** and **background**.

What you need to do:

LOOK: Look at this artwork by Gustave Courbet (Left), called *Landscape*, 1873 and the painting below, by Willard Metcalf called *New England Afternoon*, 1909.

Both of these paintings are examples of **landscapes**. Often, artists make our eyes travel around paintings on purpose. Be aware of how your eyes travel. Where do your eyes go first? Where do they end up? What tricks did the artist use to make this happen? For example, when looking at the above painting maybe your eyes go right to the bright spot in the canyon in the background, and they travel through the **middle ground** down the river toward bright spots on the rocks in the **foreground**. Or, looking at the painting to the right, maybe your eyes start in the **foreground**, on the shadow, and zigzag to the large tree on the left and then end up in the **background** on the church steeple.

GET READY: Get ready to go outside! When artists create outside and draw/paint what they see, it is called **Plein Air**. **Plein Air** artists prepare their materials ahead of time. Bring an old towel/blanket to sit on and put your chosen art materials in a bag to carry outside with you. If you are going to paint, bring a water bottle and a cup to wash your brushes, and a rag is always helpful!



MAKE: Find a spot in your yard that interests you. Look for things like interesting shadows, bright spots, great colors and shapes. Sit down and get comfortable on a towel. Close your eyes and become aware of sounds, smells, and the feel of the air around you. Open your eyes and create what you see. Try to remember to fill your entire paper/canvas. Some of you might see houses and apartments, roofs, trees, fields, fences, cars, animals, etc. As you create, think about **background, middle ground, foreground**. Do you see shadows or bright areas? How can you represent that in your creation? Are you using any tricks to make the viewers eyes travel? When you are all done clean up your materials (don't forget to bring them in the house)! Look at your creation. Can you remember the sounds, smells, and air you experienced while creating? Share your work with us!

SHARE: POST your creation in the comments on FACEBOOK and Tag @WCMFA on Instagram and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE