

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: Celebrating & Balancing Differences

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day during school closures! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE. The order you complete the challenges is up to you!

**Stuff you'll need:** Materials are up to you! Recommended: Pencil, eraser, and paper or collage materials like glue, scrap paper, paper, magazines, and scissors.

### Words you need to know:

**Balance:** equally distributing the weight in a painting

**Narrative:** telling a story

**LOOK** Look at this painting by James Voshell. Imagine there is a line going down the center of the painting. Although the painting is not symmetrical, it is well balanced on both sides of the line. Notice the high contrast of bright light shining on the boys and the dark shadows that are created. Pay attention to the figures, their face expressions, moods, clothes and objects in their hands.

**THINK:** Sometimes when we look at paintings we like to think about the people that we see and figure out what the story is; we like to find the **narrative** in the art. Try to find the difference and similarities between the two boys, standing side by side. What do you notice about their facial expressions and the way each boy is dressed? What about the objects they are holding? Imagine you are approaching them and you say "hello". How would you imagine each boy responded? Which one would you feel comfortable approaching first? Why? What is the **narrative** here?

**MAKE:** Today you are going to create a **narrative** in your artwork. Think about someone you know well: maybe a friend or family member that you get along well with but you very different from each other. Imagine you are standing side by side. Which one of you is more



James Voshell (b.1943)  
American  
*Portrait of Two Boys*, 1980  
Oil on canvas

outgoing? Friendly? Quiet? Serious? Funny? Do you dress differently? Do you play different sports or like different music? What would those differences look like in your face expressions and objects that surround you?

Make a drawing, collage or another technique to show how you and a friend or loved one are different yet also similar. This can be in the style of a realistic portrait like Voshell created, an abstract painting, a collage, etc. Maybe you will create a drawing and your friend will be holding a baseball glove and you would be holding a palette. Maybe you will create a collage and half of it would be objects and things your friend loves and the other half would be all about you. How you express the idea is up to you! Think about how you will keep **balance** in your work.

**Writing Prompt Extension:** Interview your friend/loved one that you based your work on. Find out all of their favorites. Ask whatever questions you want or create a questionnaire. Fill out the same questionnaire. Post them side by side with your artwork!

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