

Art A Day CHALLENGE: MoonLIGHT Sonata

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! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea! ALL ART MEDIUMS WELCOME. Recommendation if available: Pastels on dark paper (black construction paper, brown paper grocery bags, or cardboard from boxes).

Words you need to know:

Contrast: Opposites placed near each other in one picture. It can be sizes, colors, shapes, lines, or light vs. dark. Today we will focus on contrast of light and dark.

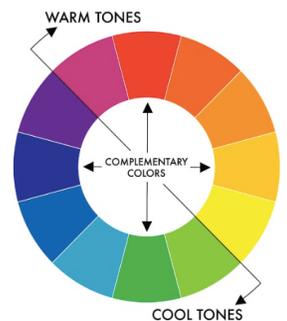
Warm Colors- colors that are in the red, orange, and yellow family. These colors can make us think of the hot sun or fire.

Cool Colors- colors that are blue, green, and purple color family. These colors can remind us of things like swimming in water or cool grass on our toes.

LOOK at this painting by Edward Steichen called *Yellow Moon*. Notice the colors, we see a lot of blue, purple green. These are all **cool colors**! In fact, the only **warm colors** we see are the moon, it's reflection, and glow! When the artist created most of the painting using **cool colors** and only the moon and its reflection **warm colors**, he created **contrast**.

THINK: Would the painting have the same mood and feel if there were more **warm colors** or if the moon was also a **cool color**? Did you see the moon last night? It was called the Pink Moon (a name that comes from a plant called creeping phlox) and appeared slightly larger than normal because the moon was the nearest point from Earth in its orbit! You might hear people call this a

Supermoon! Here is more information from NASA on this



Color wheel from <https://erickimphotography.com/blog/street-photography-composition-lessons/>



<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/news/1198/the-next-full-moon-is-a-supermoon-pink-moon/>.

Edward J. Steichen
American (1879-1973)
Yellow Moon, 1909

MAKE: Use the concept of **warm colors vs. cool colors** to create last night's sky! If you can't remember, or didn't see it, use your imagination. Your sky doesn't have to be blues and purple like Steichen's (although it can), but find a way using **warm and cool colors** to make your moon and its glow stand out against the background and create **contrast**. Maybe you'll even take the name "Pink Moon" literally! The color wheel above can be helpful- try to make your moon color from one side and the sky and ground from the other side!

WHILE YOU'RE MAKING: Listen to **Beethoven-Moonlight Sonata!**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tr0otuiQuU>

Writing Prompt Extension: Write about the super moon. Imagine you can "hear" this painting. Describe the sounds. Or: How did the April full moon feel? Describe the air, the way the size of the moon made you feel, and the way the light was shining through the leafless trees.

Share your Challenge creations with us! Tag us! Instagram @WCMFA #ArtADayChallenge, Facebook @WashingtonCountyMuseumofFineArts