

Art A Day CHALLENGE: Box of Memories

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

Goal: We will use societal, cultural, and historical contexts to develop appropriate interpretations of various artistic works.

Enduring Understanding: Artists evaluate performance based on criteria that vary across time, place, and cultures.

Essential Question: How does knowing the contexts histories, & traditions of art forms help us create works of art & design?

Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

LOOK at this elaborately decorated lacquer box contains lively scenes of court life on the top and inside of its lid. Wealthy people usually paid artists to create work like this so they could be displayed in their homes.

We can see paintings of courtiers, or people who attends a royal court as companions or advisers to the king or queen, sit in a garden pavilion of a palace on the cover's top, men on horseback are portrayed hunting deer, game, and other wild animals on its inside.

Each of the scenes represents the pastimes of noble society in Qajar Iran. We see the people surrounded by vegetation, there is plenty of food, and everyone seems to be having a great time!

The box was made from a base of papier-mâché to which a thinly coated layer of a fine plaster or gesso was applied to its surface. Then, painters created designs in miniature technique and applied a transparent lacquer or varnish to the whole piece that protected the paintings while enriching and softening their colors.

THINK about objects and artifacts in your home. Are there any artifacts in your home that can tell about your life and lifestyle? When you look back at your life in 20 years, or when the next few generations look back at these objects, what can they look at to find out what your life was like? How do you want your way of life to be remembered? The courtiers and aristocrats from Qajar Dynasty in Iran wanted to be remembered for having all that they needed and having a great time celebrating.

How does knowing the contexts histories, & traditions of art forms help us create works of art & design?

CREATE or design an artifact that could tell the story of your life. Use small pictures to tell the story. Include the environment around you. Do you sit on a front porch or stoop? Do you have a garden or pots of flowers? Do you have family dinners? Do you and your siblings play games together? What are the moments you'd like to remember? Include, happy, small details as well as traditions and holiday events.

Writing Journal Prompt: Imagine the family that kept this box was part of a royal court. Imagine that you opened this box. Write about what you found inside!



Unknown
(Iran, Qajar
Dynasty)
Lacquered
Papier-

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