

Art A Day CHALLENGE: Forest Interior

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

FA5: Utilize artistic skills to perform or create expressively with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context that relates to personal experiences and emotions.

Enduring Understanding: Artists experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches, and develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising, and refining work over time.

How do artists work? How do artists determine whether a particular direction in their work is effective?

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: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

Words to know:

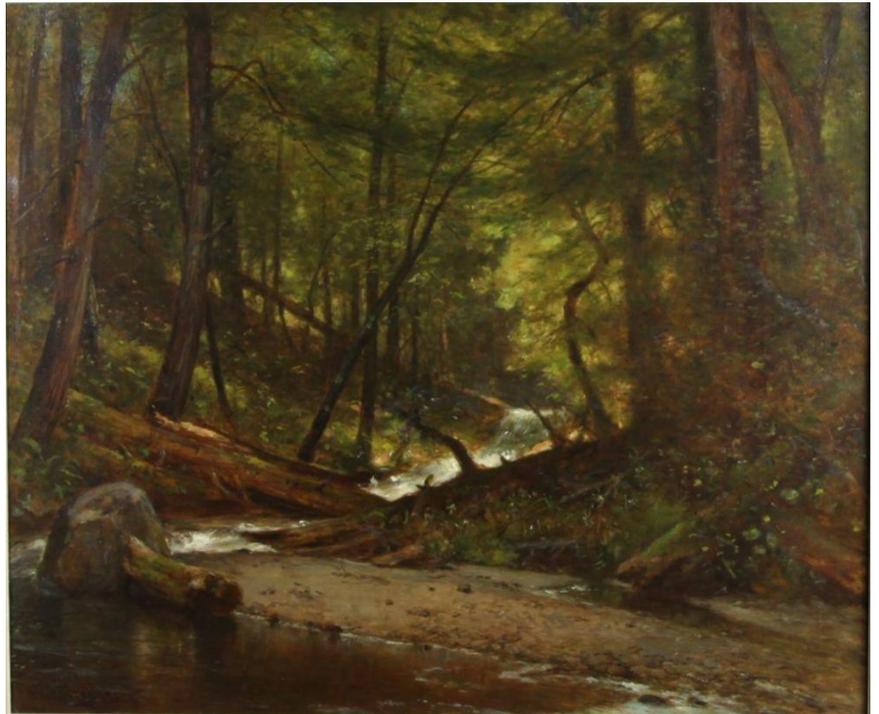
Forest interior- an area in the center of a forest
Canopy-the upper layer of habitat zone in mature trees

LOOK at this landscape by the American artist, Thomas Worthington Whittredge. The scene looks as though the artist traveled deep into the woodlands to create this forest interior. The sunlight filters through the forest canopy and creates a glow and shimmer on the forest stream. The stream wraps around a small sandy beach, where there is a fallen tree. Light does more than just make objects brighter! Notice how the light makes parts of the painting bright and warm, but also creates dark shadows and silhouettes in other areas.

THINK about the direction of the light. Where is the light coming from, where does it fall? Where are the brightest areas, or the highlights? Think about the way the shadows create shapes of their own. Squint your eyes and trace the movement of the light with your finger, starting at the top. What shape does the light make?

CREATE your own woodland interior. Show the light coming through the canopy, creating interesting path that viewer's eyes will follow. **OR** Recreate this woodland forest scene, with a twist! Imagine who or what will show up to play in the water. Maybe a bear and her cubs will arrive, or a fox will come to get a drink, or a fairy will splash around. Whatever you imagine, make sure you show how the light appears on or around the imagined forest inhabitant. Where will the light hit the face/hair/fur? Where will the shadows fall? Check the direction of the shadows on the trees, leaves, and ground. Make sure your invented shadows match the same direction as the other shadows in the landscape. Squint your eyes, does the light allow your eyes to travel around your creation? How can you control what the viewer is most interested in with the use of light?

Writing Journal Prompt: Sit in your imaginary forest interior (in your mind). Close your eyes, imagine what you hear, see, smell, tastes, and feel. Write about the experience. Title your work.



Thomas Worthington Whittredge (American, 1820–1910)
Landscape, ca. 1890s
Oil on canvas
Museum purchase, 1968

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