Art A Day  CHALLENGE: Explore the Great Indoors

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: cellphone cameras, pencil, paper, clipboards, erasers, paint, etc!

Words you need to know:

Interior: the inner or indoor part of something, especially a building; the inside.

LOOK at this painting of an interior space. It’s actually the interior of a palace! See the long hallway with objects, furniture, and light. Notice how you cannot really see the entire windows on the wall to the left, but you can understand that windows are there. What did the artist, James Well Champney do to give you the impression that there were windows? Observe how your eyes continue down the hallway. Where does the hall bring you? Look at the way the light from the window creates such a bright reflection on the floor. Would it be as bright looking if there were lights lit in the interior?

THINK: Look around your home. Walk down the hallway or find a room with windows. Turn off any lights that are on. Before you begin, take 3 minutes to observe your surroundings. Pay attention to sounds, smells, and everything you can see from your point of view. Make a view finder with your hands (see example below). Search the room looking through your view finder until you see an interesting area that includes a window and the area that the light shines on.

MAKE: Sit down with your materials and create the interior area in your home. Include the window that is allowing light into the room and represent area the light shines the brightest on. If there are curtains, what effect does the light have on the curtains? What shadows are created from the light? Is there anything on the window-sill? Does the light make shadows or bright spots on that object?

Writing Prompt Extension: The interior of the Cluny Palace, by James Well Champney, creates a mystery for the viewer. What is beyond the hallway? Imagine you were walking down the hallway and you came upon the doorway at the end. You walk in to the next room. Write what you see next!

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