REMOTE ART DAY: Plein Air Painting

We love to teach people about plein air painting. “En plein air” is French for “in the open air.” Artists take their supplies outdoors and create art inspired by what they see in nature.

This is a fun and sometimes challenging activity that can teach us to take note of our surroundings.

Next time you take a walk bring a pad of paper and a pencil!

MATERIALS

• Something to sketch with
• Paper
• Hard surface

Many of our artists like to use oil paints, but you can try watercolors, tempera paint, pastels, colored pencils, or anything you have!

PRO TIP!

A viewfinder is a great way to help choose what to include in your sketch, and easy to make!

1. Cut out a 5 inch x 7 inch rectangle in a piece of paper or light cardboard.
2. Measure in 1 inch on all sides and draw a line straight across to connect each mark.
3. This should create a 4 inch x 6 inch rectangle. Cut out the center rectangle and use the outside frame as your viewfinder.

DIRECTIONS

Look around outside and find a subject that is interesting to you. Make some observations about your subject:

• Does your subject have wavy or straight lines?
• What shapes and colors do you see?
• Are there any shadows around your subject?
• Where is the light coming from?

Start by lightly sketching the shapes that you see with your pencil. When you’re ready, add some color!

Take a picture and share it with us!

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