

AFAM FROM HOME FAMILY GUIDE

Works from the Collection

Welcome to the American Folk Art Museum! We design activities for families so they can better understand the meaning of folk art. In this guide, families can do activities and answer questions like, “What kinds of colors did the artist use?” and “Does this painting create a certain mood for you?” These questions and activities will connect families to the artworks in our collection.

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Beach with Parachute Jump; Vestie Davis (1903-1978); New York City; 1960; oil on canvas; 16 x 20 in.; bequest of Gloria Bley Miller. 2008.5.11. Photo by Adam Reich.



Did you know: *Figure with Yellow Face* was created mostly from plastic bottle caps. The couple who made this piece charged the public a 25 cents admissions fee to view their artwork. Clarence and Grace Woolsey were working as farmhands in the area of Lincoln, Iowa, when they made their first assemblages in 1961, using bottle caps they had accumulated. For the next ten years, the husband and wife created at least two hundred sculptures: buildings, animals, vehicles, and fantasy figures resembling rabbits.

Create: Each of these artworks uses bold colors in an interesting way. What's your favorite color? Draw a self-portrait using a palette of your imagination.

Untitled (Figure with Yellow Face); Clarence (1929-1987) and Grace Woolsey (1921-1992); Lincoln, Iowa; after 1961; mixed media with bottle caps; 36 1/2 x 18 1/2 x 13 in.; gift of George H. Meyer, 2007.22.1.

Untitled (Purple Face); Ted Gordon; Laguna Hills, California; 1980; ink, felt-tip pen, and crayon on paper; 10 1/2 x 8 in.; gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rosenak, 1990.10.3. Photo by American Folk Art Museum.



Imagine: You're at the amusement park and you hear excited screams and smell popcorn and candy. Now think of your favorite thing to do when you go to an amusement park. What kind of feelings do you experience when you are there? Are you scared of the rollercoasters?

Look: This is Luna Park, located in Brooklyn, New York. Have you ever been to Coney Island? It is a staple when it comes to the culture of New York City. After Davis moved to New York he fell in love with the city, which he combined with his love for painting, depicting areas heavily populated with people. What do you look forward to when you go to the amusement park?

Create: If you were to create your own amusement park, What kind of rides would be there? How big would it be? What would your amusement park be called?



Imagine: Step inside this scene. What kind of adventure would you go on? Where do you think the hole is leading? Is it a new world?

Create: Draw your own imaginative world. What kind of adventures would take place? Where would this place be?



Look: Take a good look at this drawing. It shows the inside of a room. What kind of room do you think this is? What kind of furniture do you see?

Create: This is the inside of a house that artist Eddie Arning drew with crayons and craypas on paper. Using materials from our museum or at home, draw your dream room. What color would the walls be? What special items would you include?



Look: There are so many shapes and colors in this quilt. Take a closer look at the details and stitching. Different types of quilts include friendship quilts, fundraiser quilts and also album quilts. This is called a crazy quilt because of all the different patterns, shapes and colors that were put together in an irregular design

Create: If you were to create your own quilt, what kinds of shapes would be in it? What kinds of materials would you use? Would you use old clothes to sew into your quilt? Draw your own quilt design as if it were to be stitched.



Look: This sculpture of Noah's Ark is filled with animals. Notice there's a rainbow shining over the boat! What does a rainbow symbolize to you? What kind of animals do you see? Is your favorite animal included here? What animals would you add to the scene?

Create: The biblical story of Noah is well known, and very iconic. With materials like playdough or anything you can think of in your home or at the museum, create a sculpture telling a story of your own that you'd want to tell. Would you include animals like those in Noah's Ark? What kind of story will you tell using those materials?