

AFAM FROM HOME

Art-Making Activities

Each week we will share new prompts for making art at home inspired by artworks from the American Folk Art Museum's collection. Here are five drawing prompts to get started. **Join us!**



Vestie Davis, Coney Island Cyclone, 1957

1. Draw Your City

Vestie Davis loved to paint and draw scenes of New York City, inspired by the city he called home. What are your favorite landmarks in New York or elsewhere?

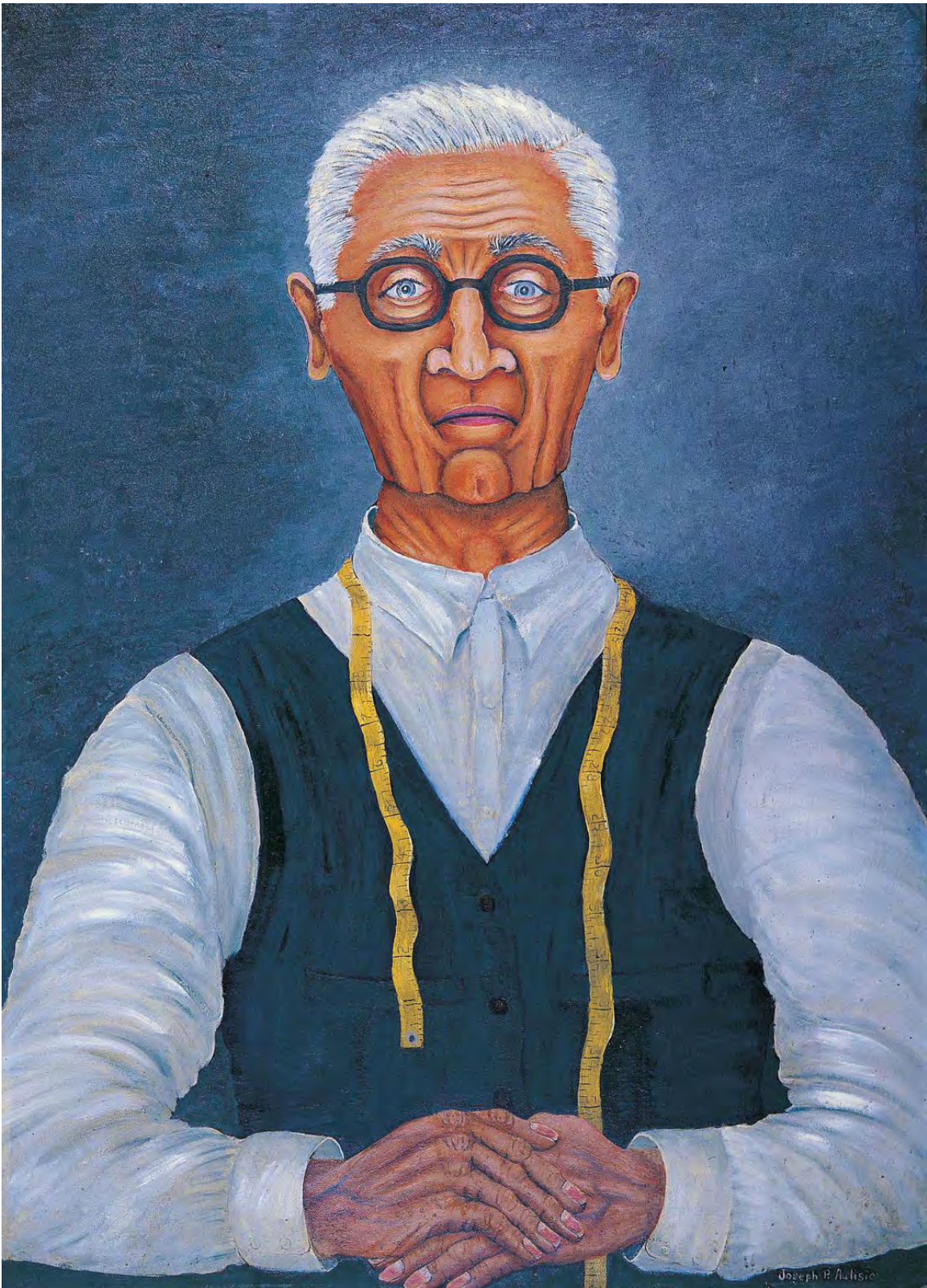
Davis based his artworks on photographs he took first. Find a photo online or one that you've taken of your favorite cityscape and draw a scene. What buildings, beaches, or parks might you include?



2. Pattern and Repetition

Several self-taught artists have incorporated intricate, mesmerizing patterns into their artworks creating their own visual language, including **Perley M. Wentworth**, whose drawing is pictured above. What lines and shapes do you see repeated here? What colors? How do they direct your eye through the artwork?

What patterns will you make? Begin by drawing a grid with a ruler and pencil, then try adding triangles, circles, ovals, and other shapes. When you're ready, add colors, shading and other embellishments.



3. Picture a Portrait

Joseph Pasquale Aulizio was a self-taught artist who also owned a dry cleaning business. He painted this portrait of Frank Peters, who worked with him as a tailor. What clues does Aulizio include to show that Peters was a tailor?

Paint or draw a portrait of someone you know. What objects will you include to identify them? What expression will they have? What pose?



4. Favorite Activities

In this painting, a woman and child sit outside in the sun paring apples. The woman finds shade under a tall tree and the child sits under an umbrella. This picture was painted by **Clementine Hunter**, a self-taught artist who could neither read nor write, but painted several thousand works over the course of her lifetime, documenting daily life in Louisiana.

What activities do you like to do outside? How will you represent them? What will the weather be and what tools or objects will you need? Who will be with you? Draw or paint a scene.



5. Say it with a Sign

This hand-painted sign from 1813 shows a horse-drawn coach seemingly paused on a road by a tree. The text reads **"S. D. Plum: Entertainment for Teams,"** and was created to identify Plum's tavern as a safe haven for travelers. The word *entertainment* here refers to the food and lodging that could be obtained within.

If you could have a sign for your room, what would you want visitors to know? What images and instructions will you include? Draw or paint an example to hang on your own door.