



BRUCE MUSEUM

## DIGITAL WEEKENDS: APRIL SHOWERS

\*Tip: Read this whole lesson plan before you get started so you understand how the activity will evolve.

### RAINY DAYS:

This weekend's Digital Weekends with the Bruce is all about April showers! Pulling inspiration from landscapes in the Bruce Museum's permanent collection, teaching artist Grayson was inspired to create a landscape that reflects the rainy days of April. Landscapes are a type of art that illustrates the visible features of land or landforms. A landscape will include all of the physical elements one might see outdoors: mountains, hills, bodies of water, vegetation, buildings, man/man-made items, weather, and light (i.e. sun, clouds, etc.).



Charles Harold Davis (American, 1856 – 1933)  
*The Old Pasture*, C. 1919  
Oil on Canvas  
Bruce Museum, 00029

### **Vocabulary:**

**Landscape:** all the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal.

**Shadow:** a dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface.

**Outline:** a line or set of lines enclosing or indicating the shape of an object in a sketch or diagram.

**Contour Outline:** version of outline drawing, in which the artist, looking closely at the contour of an object, transfers it in one continuous line to paper without looking down to see what he is doing, except when he needs to place an internal feature such as an eye.

**Negative Space:** is the space around and between the subject of an image.

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

Visit this link for our past exhibition that features museum highlights: [Pasture to Pond: Connecticut Impressionism](#)

### Materials:

- Paper



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- Pencil
- Colored Pencils
- Eraser
- Tape

### **DIRECTIONS:**

Prep:

Ask your adult to help you find all the materials listed above. If you don't have something listed, get creative and use something else from around your house. Some other items you can use might include watercolor paint or crayons. Make sure to clear a space where you and your adult can do this activity.

STEP 1:

Begin by looking closely at the image above of *The Old Pasture* and comparing it to the landscapes you have seen before. Look outside your window for some inspiration and think about a landscape you would like to draw. Once you have that landscape in mind, get started! Keep a copy of the image near you or sit near the window you are looking out from. You will need to see your landscape as you create your artwork.

STEP 2:

Watch teaching artist Grayson as she creates her own landscape; you can follow along! If you want to create a different type of landscape, watch the video first and then get started.

STEP 3:

Find a picture, or look outside, and decide the landscape you would like to draw. Horizontal images work best for landscapes.

STEP 4:

During this step, you'll draw key elements of the landscape which will help you end up with a contour outline, like the one seen in the video. You'll use this outline to help draw your complete landscape.

STEP 5:

Next block out shadows on your landscape. Look at your reference photo, or image, for help with that. Find the dark and light areas in your landscape reference image.

STEP 6:

Start to shade in those dark and light areas on your drawing. Start by applying cool colors like blues and purples first to help build up shade.

STEP 7:

Apply colors to the landscape in layers. Remember that colors closest to you will be brighter and colors further away



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will fade into the background. In this step, you can use cool and warm colors to mix and create all the different colors in your landscape. One technique teaching artist Grayson shows in the video is to create edges instead of lines in your landscape. Go back to the video if you need to see an example of this technique.

STEP 8:

Once you've added all of your colors, you can add finishing details to the landscape!

STEP 9:

Your landscape is complete! Now that you are finished, share your landscape with your friends and family. You and your adult can also share your landscape with our hashtag #Brucemuseum.

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