Nature in Art

Join us as we explore the world around us to find inspiration in nature to create works of art!

Art is made by using your creativity and imagination to express an idea. It can be anything from a drawing or painting, to a dance, a song or the design of clothing. Inspiration for art is often found in nature. The colors in a sunset, the patterns on a bird feather, the shape of a leaf— all of these things have inspired humans for thousands of years when they have created art. Artists in the past and present also use natural materials, like sand, feathers or leaves, to make their art. There are many things in nature that can inspire us to create something new!

Day 1: Color Concoctions

Rainbows in the sky, brightly colored flowers and the dirt under our feet are all parts of nature. They also are different colors. While there are thousands of different colors found in nature, they all can be made from the same three colors when making art. Red, yellow and blue are called primary colors. These colors can’t be made by mixing other colors together, but other colors are created by mixing the three primary colors together in different ways. Secondary colors are colors made by mixing equal amounts of two primary colors. Let’s do an experiment to see how primary colors mix to form different colors!

Before you start, you should have:

- Six cups (white interior or clear)
- Water
- Red, yellow and blue food coloring
- A spoon
Get started:
1. Fill three of the cups halfway with water.
2. Add three to six drops of red food coloring to one cup of water and stir. The water should be brightly colored, but not dark.
3. Add three to six drops of yellow food coloring into a second cup of water and stir.
4. Add three to six drops of blue food coloring into a third cup and stir.
5. Observe the red, yellow and blue water. Think:
   - What two colors will mix to create orange?
   - What two colors will mix to create green?
   - What two colors will mix to create purple?
6. Pour half of the red water into an empty cup, then add half of the blue water and stir. Observe the color created.
7. Pour the remaining red water into an empty cup, then add half of the yellow water and stir. Observe the color created.
8. Pour the remaining blue water into an empty cup, then add the remaining yellow water and stir. Observe the color created.
9. Tell someone what you discovered!
   - Which of the primary colors did you mix together to create orange?
   - Which of the colors did you mix to create green?
   - Which of the colors did you mix to create purple?

Keep exploring!
- Using the colored water or paints, see how many new colors you can create by mixing the primary and secondary colors together in different amounts.
- Use the colored water as paint and create a scene from nature (you can look outside, in a book or on TV for inspiration).

What did you discover?
Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags #samnoblehome and #summerexplorers to share!