

## FAMILY ART ACTIVITY – Arbor Day – Celebrating Trees!

North Carolina based photographer Burk Uzzle is a favorite artist of the Nasher Museum of Art! His beautiful and unique photographs often find humorous juxtapositions of the natural and man-made. The image below, *Tree with Refrigerator, Washington*, features an image of a beautiful tree in its summer glory alongside a displaced refrigerator lying precariously on its side, both against a brightly colored concrete block wall.



Burk Uzzle, *Tree with Refrigerator, Washington*, 2006. Chromogenic print, 40x50 inches (101.6 x 127 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Gift of Charles Weinraub and Emily Kass, 2011.18.2. © Burk Uzzle

**National Arbor Day** is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. First observed in 1872, this annual celebration is held on the third Friday of April – this Friday, April 24th! Trees that grow on their own from fallen seeds are often referred to as “volunteer trees” meaning they weren’t planted purposefully by people. Oftentimes, these trees grow in unexpected or not ideal locations.

**Activity:** Grab something to dig with (a shovel, hand spade, even a big spoon!) and go for a small walk with your family around the neighborhood. Look for volunteer trees that have sprouted up in problematic areas – these trees might only be a few inches to a few feet tall. Dig them up and plant them somewhere they can thrive! Very small trees can be planted in planters, buckets, or even a milk jug that has been cut in two. Once they are larger they can be replanted in your yard!

If you are interested in identifying what type of tree you find, head over to The Arbor Day Foundation and use their online guide, *What Tree is That?*, available here: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/>.