FAMILY ART ACTIVITY – A Macro World

The Nasher Museum of Art’s collection includes artwork by two contemporary artists who combined macro photography and toys, or figurines, to tell a story. Hank Willis Thomas created a stop-motion video titled, Winter in America, which recreates a difficult event in his family’s history using toy vehicles and G.I. Joe action figures. David Levinthal used a large scale Polaroid camera to recreate some of the most iconic moments in the history of baseball with small lifelike figurines in his series Baseball.

(Left) Hank Willis Thomas, Kambui Olujimi, Winter in America, 2005. Video (color, sound), 4:05 minute loop. Museum purchase with additional funds provided by William and Ruth True.

(Right) David Levinthal. Untitled (Roberto Clemente) from the series Baseball, 2003. Polaroid Polacolor ER Land Film, Image: 24 x 20 inches (61 x 50.8 cm) Sheet: 30 x 22 inches (76.2 x 55.9 cm). Anonymous gift.

Activity: Many smart phones or tablet computers with cameras are surprisingly good at making macro photographs. Experiment with photographing toys, food, or objects from your home or yard at extreme closeup. Think about the different backgrounds you could use and how that might affect the image. Finally, think of an event from the past that you would like to illustrate. Use small objects or toys and your new micro photography skills to create a series of 3-5 images that tell us a story.

Find more tips for making macro photographs on your smartphone here: https://bit.ly/2RnsXaO

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