

## Artful Weather Reports

Subject: Visual Arts, Science

Grade Level: Grades K-5

**Guided Instruction** (To be done with teacher, parent, caregiver, older sibling, etc.)

View a selection of artworks from the Nasher's collection, available on page two or online here:

<https://sites.nasher.duke.edu/wordsandpictures/activity/artful-weather-reports/>

### Discuss the image by asking:

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?
- What is the weather depicted in this image?
- What details do you see that make you say that?

Have the students choose two of the works of art to compare and contrast; you might use a Venn diagram or some other graphic organizer to record your observations. What are some details you see in both works of art? What are some differences between the two works of art?

### Activities / Art Making

Before going outside, look out a nearby window and see what observations you can make about the weather. Is it sunny? Cloudy? Warm? Cold? Windy? What details do you see that can support that conclusion?

Now, head outside and see if your visual observations are correct.

While you are outside, go shadow hunting in your yard or neighborhood. More defined shadows might be found on a hard surface like a driveway or sidewalk. Once you find an interesting shadow, use any materials you can find to trace the outline – pencil on a paper bag, pen or marker on scrap paper, sidewalk chalk, or a stick in the dirt are all great options. After you trace the outline of the shadow, wait a few minutes and then look at the shadow again. Have the shadows moved? Why did this happen?

If you are able to leave your drawing in the sun (weighed down by a rock or something heavy) try to trace the shadow once every 15 minutes for an hour. Your finished drawing should have four different outlines – and is a visual record of the Earth rotating!

Follow this link for “The Ultimate List of Shadow Experiments for Kids:

<https://www.steamsational.com/shadow-activities/>



(top left) Don Eddy, *Green Volkswagen*, 1971. Acrylic on Canvas, 66 x 95 inches (167.6 x 241.3 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Gift of Ivan and Zoya Gerhath, 2001.40.1 © Don Eddy

(top right) Alfred Thompson Bricher, *At the South Head, Grand Manan*, 1880s. Oil on Canvas, Frame: 55 7/8 x 45 3/4 x 4 inches (141.9 x 116.2 x 10.2 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Museum purchase with funds provided by the John A. Schwarz III and Anita Eerdmans Schwarz Family Endowment, 2002.18.1

(bottom left) Romare Bearden, *In the Garden* from *American Portfolio*, 1979. Lithograph on paper, 28 3/4 x 21 1/4 inches (73 x 54 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Carolyn Klein, 1980.81.5. Art © Romare Bearden Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

(bottom right) Edward Henry Potthast, *American, Beach Scene*, c. 1910-1920. Crayon on Bristol paper, 11 1/8 x 15 1/8 inches (28.3 x 38.4 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA. Bequest of Louise and Alvin Myerberg, 2010.3.13.