

## FAMILY ART ACTIVITY – Shadow Drawing

The painting *Green Volkswagen*, by the American artist Don Eddy, is a favorite of children and families visiting the Nasher! Look at the painting as a family – what do you notice? What can you tell about the weather from the details you see? What else do you notice?



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

While the Volkswagen Beetle seems to be the star of this painting, it is notable that the artist uses as much of the picture plane to document the dappled sunlight passing through a tree on this street. From these shadows, we can gather information – it is a sunny day and the trees are full of leaves – a great day for a drive!

### Activity:

First, go shadow hunting in your yard or neighborhood. Like in the painting, 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 record of the Earth rotating!

Follow this link for “The Ultimate List of Shadow Experiments for Kids”: <https://www.steamsational.com/shadow-activities/>