

Nature Viewers

By Caponi Art Park

Project Overview:

Recommended for ages Pre-K to age 7

Can you see that spider spinning its web on the sculpture or the tiny bits of moss growing at your feet? In this workshop students will create their own nature viewers. Students will use paint, markers and collage to put their personal stamp on their nature viewers. Following this workshop, students are encouraged to explore the outdoors, where they can use their new nature viewers to focus on different textures, shapes and colors!

Supply List:

- Toilet paper tubes (2 per child) You can also cut paper towel tubes in half.
- Markers and/or crayons
- Construction paper or colored paper
- Collage paper (This could be newspaper, magazines, old wrapping paper or tissue paper)
- Glue
- Plastic wrap
- Rubber bands or a stapler
- Yarn, or string
- Hole punch (if you have it, otherwise you can make holes with a scissors or sharpened pencil)
- Scissors
- Any other fun materials you have laying around to decorate!

Instructions:

- Have two toilet paper rolls ready per each participant.
- Instruct participants to use collage paper, colored paper, glue, markers, crayons, and whatever decorating materials you have on hand. If you do not have scissors, make the pieces of collage paper smaller by tearing or ripping them to size.
- It is best to use markers and crayons first, and then use glue to secure other decorating materials to the tubes. They should do this for each tube. Make sure all added materials are securely fastened to the tubes.
- Take a small sheet of cellophane or plastic wrap, like the kind used to store food, or a ziplock bag, and use markers to color the plastic, or draw colorful shapes on

the plastic (permanent markers will create less mess on hands, but magic markers are also fine).

- Cut the plastic that you colored to fit each “lense” for your nature viewers. 3 inches by 3 inches should be plenty for each hole.
- Take rubber bands, or cheap hair ties, and use those to gently secure the colored plastic to each toilet paper tube by wrapping it around the ends.
- Use two rubber bands to fasten the toilet paper tubes together. If you have hot glue, you may glue them together this way. A stapler would also work.
- Once they are fastened together, punch a hole on opposite sides of one end of the binoculars (Do this to the end of the binoculars that will go on the eyes, not the end with the plastic). The holes can be made with a hole punch, but you can also use a sharpened pencil, or a pen.
- Tie a piece of yarn, string or twine, with beads if you have them, to each hole to create a neck strap for the nature viewers.
- Once your nature viewers have dried completely, take them outside and explore the outdoor world!

Finished project example:

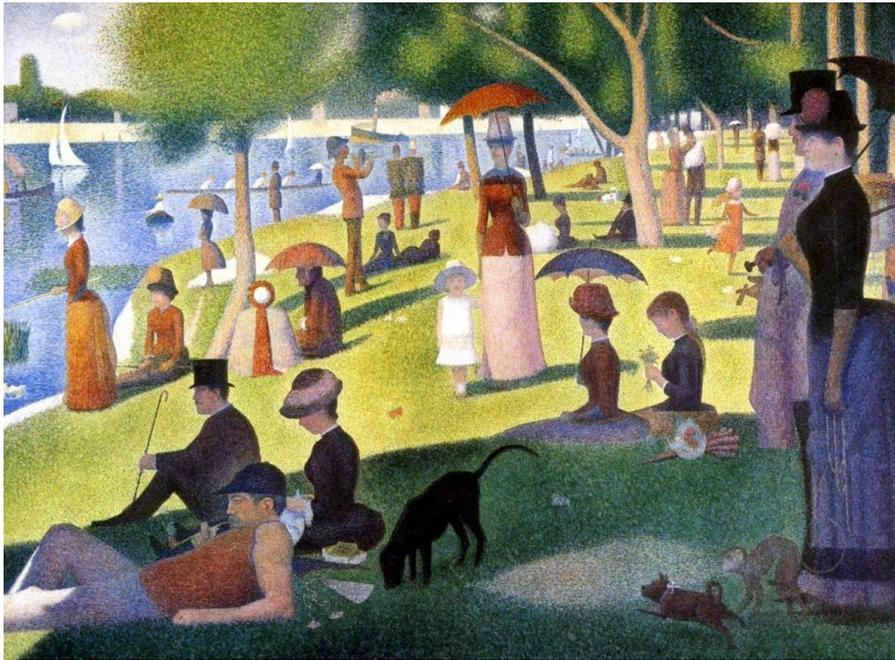


Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever used a pair of binoculars? If so, what did you use them for?
- What do you hope to find with your nature viewers?
- How will they help you hone in on details in nature?
- What type of recycled materials did you use to make your nature viewers?

Short Lesson:

- Nature viewers are a lot like binoculars and telescopes as well.
- Have you ever used a telescope to look at the stars at night?
- Binoculars were invented in the 17th century alongside the telescope. Binoculars are basically two telescopes mounted side-by-side that you put over your eyes to view things that are far away.
- For example, hunters use binoculars to view animals far away, and astronomers use them to look at the stars and planets.
- Today, you will be using recycled materials to create your very own set of binoculars, or nature viewers.
- With your nature viewers you will be able to see small details in artwork that went unnoticed without them.
- In an art museum or sculpture park you are always using your eyes to look, notice small details and investigate the art.
- Imagine looking at a painting of a park or other natural setting. With nature viewers, you are able to pick up on things you otherwise might have missed.
- For example, in “Sunday at the Park” by George Seurat, there are so many small details that most people miss their first time viewing it.



- What do you notice about this painting?
- Did you see the monkey on a leash? Or the cane in the man's hand?
- All of these things will be more apparent once you have created your nature viewers. You will be able to take them to a museum or to walk around Caponi Art Park and discover things you have not yet seen!

- With your nature viewers, you will be able to observe sculptures, plants, and animals that appear far away.
- Birdwatchers use binoculars frequently to get a closer look at the birds way up in the sky or perched in a tree.
- You could see a bird close-up:



- Or a close-up of a flower:



- What will you find with your nature viewers?