



MUSEUM FROM HOME

Art Explorers' Story Hour | February 2021

What's Around You?

Look!

What do you see in this picture?
How many horses can you find?
How many people do you see?
What sounds do you think you would hear in this place?

Learn!

Look outside – do you see lots of trees, grass, and bushes? Do you see a sidewalk, cars, and other houses?

When you go outside, what sounds do you hear? What do you smell?

In this painting by Gene Kloss, we can see an [adobe](#) house (a house made using bricks of clay and sand mixed with water) and a barn near some trees. She painted people near the horses and walking from the barn. Far away, we can see huge mountains that look rocky. She painted a beautiful picture of the space around her.



Gene Kloss, *Taos Valley*, circa 1950, Watercolor on paper, 19 × 21 in. Clara S. Peck Fund. 2000.11

Do!

Be an artist like Gene Kloss! You can make a beautiful picture of the space around you just like she did! Follow the directions to make your own art.

Supplies:

- Paper – white or different colors (at bottom of page, there is a paint recipe to use on colored paper)
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Optional: fabric scraps, cotton balls, foam shapes, stickers



Instructions:

Think about where you are. What do you want in your picture?

- First, make a picture of where you live - you can draw or paint it.
- Next, draw what you see and hear outside (trees, sidewalks, birds, cars).
- Optional: add fabric, cotton balls, stickers, foam shapes (or anything else you have) to your picture. You can tear pieces of paper to stack or crumple tissue paper, too.



BONUS: Use this recipe to make “Snowy Paint” that looks like snow on colored paper!

- Start with 1 cup powdered (confectioner’s) sugar and add water 1 tablespoon at a time.
- You can make it as runny or thick as you want.
- The thicker the paint, the longer it will take to dry and the more opaque it will be.
- Add snow to the rooftops, grass, or sidewalks and roads.
- Show your friends and family your beautiful artwork!

