



REMOTE ART DAY: Plein Air Painting

We love to teach people about plein air painting. “**En plein air**” is French for “**in the open air.**” Artists take their supplies outdoors and create art inspired by what they see in nature.

This is a fun and sometimes challenging activity that can teach us to take note of our surroundings.

Next time you take a walk bring a pad of paper and a pencil!



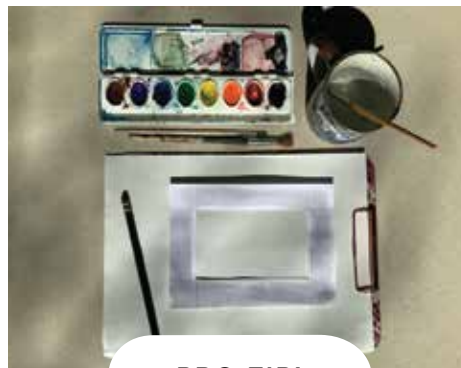
E. Charlton Fortune (1885-1969), *Barnsmuir, aka Grandfather's House, Scotland, ca. 1902*, watercolor on paper, 9.5 x 13 in., Collection Monterey Museum of Art, Bequest of Monsignor Robert E. Brennan.



MATERIALS

- Something to sketch with
- Paper
- Hard surface

Many of our artists like to use oil paints, but you can try watercolors, tempera paint, pastels, colored pencils, or anything you have!



PRO TIP!

➔ A **viewfinder** is a great way to help choose what to include in your sketch, and easy to make!

1. **Cut out a 5 inch x 7 inch rectangle** in a piece of paper or light cardboard.
2. **Measure in 1 inch on all sides** and draw a line straight across to connect each mark.
3. This should create a 4 inch x 6 inch rectangle. **Cut out the center rectangle and use the outside frame** as your viewfinder.



DIRECTIONS

Look around outside and find a subject that is interesting to you. **Make some observations about your subject:**

- Does your subject have **wavy** or **straight** lines?
- What **shapes** and **colors** do you see?
- Are there any **shadows** around your subject?
- Where is the **light** coming from?

Start by lightly sketching the shapes that you see with your pencil. When you're ready, add some color!

➔ Take a picture and share it with us!

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