THINK OUTSIDE THE FRAME

These activities will encourage you to look closely at works of art in the exhibition, "Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters".

Compare the two paintings. What do you see? How are they the same, and how are they different? Consider the subject, size, shape, point of view, colors, and light in each painting. These are all choices Porter made when painting landscapes and interior scenes at his homes in Southampton and Maine. Now, imagine what is not included in the picture--think outside the frame!

Materials
Paper
Printed image
Tape or glue
DAY 1

Choose an image that interests you. You can use one of the images above (like the example to the right) or search and print one from http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/collection. If you aren’t able to print an image, use a photograph or an image from a magazine or newspaper. Attach the image to a larger piece of paper using tape or glue. Place it anywhere on the page, but give yourself room to draw “outside the frame”.

You’ll need a pencil, and if you have crayons, markers or colored pencils, you can use those too. Now, imagine what the scene might look like beyond the border of the original image. If there is a horizon line separating the sky from ground or sea, or table line, continue the line onto your paper. Go from there to create your own ideas! You can make it realistic or fanciful, but... have fun!

DAY 2

Did You Choose an outside scene for your drawing yesterday? Today, find a printed image of an inside scene, table top, or an abstract work of art. Can you extend the image to include other items? You may want to add different furniture, or a vase of flowers; think of what other elements will work with the image. If you choose an abstract piece, add your own shapes, colors, patterns and textures to the existing picture. Remember to think outside the frame!

TAKE IT FURTHER

Try this as a collaborative drawing project with two or more participants. Each person can choose a picture to glue or tape on a large piece of paper. Set a timer and exchange papers after 5 minutes.

Try this with multiple images. Place more than one image on a blank page and complete the scene to connect them.

Finally, take what you have learned about how artists “frame” a scene and make your own original drawing of painting.

Check out the exhibition, Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters, at the Parrish Art Museum. August 7, 2020 - January 31, 2021

We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios