

OPEN STUDIO

september 2019



SUNSHINE



The sun brings us life, light, warmth, and energy. Bright light in a work of art often makes the scene seem cheerful, optimistic, and inviting. Where dim light brings gloomy and more sad emotions.

-How does the artist depiction of sunshine vary in each of these paintings?

-Which do you find most inviting?

-How has the artist used the visual elements light, shadow, and color to make us feel warm, thirsty, dry or relaxed?



CLOUDS



There are many different kinds of clouds, each with its own unique composition and location in the sky. Stratus clouds look like low grey blankets across the sky and are associated with foggy days. Others are the big, puffy cumulus clouds; made of water, they are close to the ground and often bring us rain. Altocumulus clouds look like small cotton balls high in the sky that indicate good weather.

-What kinds of clouds do you see in the following works of art?

-Describe the clouds you see.

-What kind of weather do they indicate?

-How do these clouds affect the mood of the painting?

Artists can convey mood and emotion in their art through brushstrokes, color choice, and the contrast of light and shadow. They can also encourage the viewer to feel a certain way by their choice of subject matter, the season they choose to capture, and even the weather depicted. Take for example the following works of art from [Becoming America](#) that focus on sunshine, clouds, and seasons.

(Make your way to the exhibit [Becoming America](#) on the main floor. Enter to the left to start the gallery portion.)



SEASONS

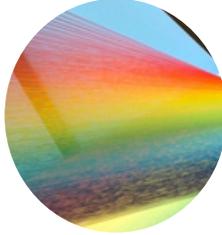


Weather is greatly influenced by the time of year as indicated by the changing of seasons. Here in Utah, we experience all four seasons to the fullest! However, people who live just a few hundred miles north never see summer and those that live a few hundred miles south never get to see snow!

- What is your favorite season?
- Compare the following two paintings: Can you tell what season is depicted?
- How would you feel if you stepped into each painting?
- How would the weather of each painting affect your mood?



AFTER THE RAIN



As a special treat, look at Plexus no. 29; an installation made of string in the central lobby of the museum. In nature, rainbows appear when light shines through water droplets in the air, usually after it rains. Our rainbow, however, is made with 80 miles of string and took 10 days to create!

- Now head back to the studio to make your own weather creation!



STUDIO PORTION

- 1st Decide what season is your favorite.
- 2nd How do artists portray your favorite season? What colors did they use? How much sunlight would there be during this season?
- 3rd Create a picture of your favorite season using oil pastels. It can be realistic, impressionistic, or abstract! Pay special attention to the levels of light, cloud cover, and colors that represent your favorite season.

Don't know how to use oil pastels? No Problem! Look on your table for easy oil pastel techniques!