

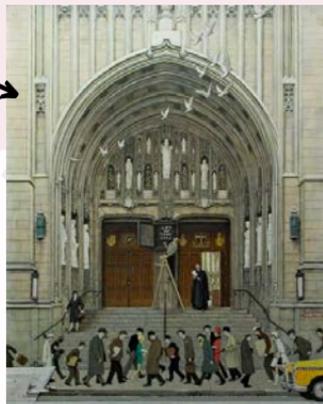
# ***FEBRUARY OPEN STUDIO***

Everyone needs to know they are loved and appreciated, but how often do we remember to express this sentiment to our friends and family? It can be easy to get stuck in our own world and wrapped up in our own concerns. This Valentine's Day, we want to inspire you to *Look Outward and Love Outward* by taking a fresh look at selected artworks from three separate exhibits.

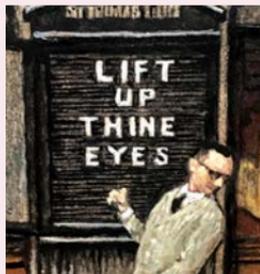
To begin, walk downstairs to the exhibit *Rend the Heavens* and look for this painting by Normal Rockwell.

The title of this work, *Lift Up Thine Eyes*, is found in the sign outside of the cathedral. How does this statement contrast with the body language of the passing figures?

While the phrase "Lift Up Thine Eyes" can refer to a spiritual act of looking up, it can also be interpreted as taking notice of the people around you.



Norman Rockwell, *Lift Up Thine Eyes*, c. 1965  
Oil on board



Why do you think Normal Rockwell felt compelled to paint an image focusing on lifting one's eyes during the 1960s? What major historical events happened at this time?

Does this painting and its message apply to our experiences of today? What major historical events have happened in the past year that warrants looking up and noticing our fellow men?

Head to the exhibit next door called *Treasures from the MOA Collection*. Here you will find the beloved artwork, *The First Grief*, by Daniel Ridgway Knight.



Take a moment to observe the body language, facial expressions, and gentle gestures of each woman.

Imagine yourself as the girl in need. How does it feel to have someone take time out of their day, give you undivided attention, listen to you, or offer comfort?

Now, consider how you can willingly give of your time, provide attention, or extend unconditional love to another person. Find someone to be the recipient of your gift today.

Daniel Ridgway Knight, *Premier Chagrin*, 1892  
Oil on canvas

Finally, walk upstairs to find the third artwork in the exhibit *Becoming America*. Tucked away in one of the alcoves is the painting *Subway Scene* by Julian Joseph.

Have you ever experienced waiting on the bus for your stop? Or, do you ever find yourself waiting in line at the grocery store? How about waiting for an appointment in an office?

What do these figures do as they wait? What might they be thinking about right now; how might they be feeling?

This painting can remind us to consider the people around us. What can you say or do to cheer a stranger's day up? How do you feel when someone notices you with something as simple as eye contact or a smile?

This Valentine's season, let's lift our eyes as we recognize the love, support, and comfort we can offer in our ordinary moments.



Julian Joseph, *Subway Scene*, 1947  
Oil on canvas

# I LOVE YOU BECAUSE...

Today you will be creating a two-dimensional mason jar that holds different written reasons why you love a particular individual. Once complete, gift it to the person to remind them how important and special they are in your life!

Materials included in the art kit:

- Cardstock
- Pipe cleaner
- Red, Pink and Grey Construction paper
- Tracing paper
- String

To create this mason jar inspired artwork, begin by cutting a jar shape out of the provided tracing paper. Helpful tip: a short, wide mouth jar makes it easier to retrieve the hearts.

Next, glue down the left, right, and bottom sides of the jar leaving the top open.

Add a lid and preferred decorations around the jar. We have provided grey paper, a pipe cleaner, and string that you can use to outline the shape. Be creative!

It's time to add little heart notes to your jar. Using the strips of red and pink paper, cut out hearts and then write down all the reasons you love the person chosen. Fill the jar completely with these thoughts!



Other MOA examples to inspire you!

