



Explore More is a self-guided program for kids and families normally taking place in our gallery. The Home Edition is designed for families to enjoy virtually!

Anne C. Smith: A Point of Longing

Tephra ICA is pleased to present [*A Point of Longing*](#), an exhibition featuring the work of artist Anne C. Smith (b. 1985, Syracuse, New York; lives and works in Washington, D.C.). Smith considers landscape (outdoor spaces), memory, and home in her artwork. This exhibition includes a series of nine silkscreen monoprints. Monoprints in a series are produced with a common element, yet each is unique depending on the colors of ink and textures applied. Common elements in this series include a horizon line in the center of each work and shifting rectangles that the artist refers to as “windows”.

Smith studied with Master Printmaker Lou Stovall and is currently a Teaching Artist at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She has completed artist residencies with Artist Mother Studio at Washington Project for the Arts in Washington, D.C.; the Kala Art Institute in Berkeley, CA; and the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA. Smith is represented by Adah Rose Gallery.

Activity 1: Memory Match

Recommended age group: Pre-K – Early elementary school

Memory is a key element in the artist’s series. Smith reflects on a childhood memory of her bedroom window and the view outside of an open field and a playground. Each of her prints is similar, yet a little different. The same is true of the memory of her window which changes slightly in the mind with time.

Have you ever played the game memory? Would you like to make your own memory cards? Great! You will need: two sheets of paper, a ruler, a pencil, scissors, and coloring materials (crayons, markers, colored pencils).



1. Start by turning your two sheets of rectangular paper into squares. If your sheet is 8.5 x 11 inches (computer paper), you can cut off $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the long side and 3 inches from the short side.
2. Once you have two square sheets, mark every two inches on each side of the papers and connect the marks to form a grid (you will have 8 small squares per paper).
3. Next, think of eight of your favorite memories (i.e. a camping trip, Christmas, a playdate). Now draw a symbol representing your eight memories (i.e. a s'more for camping, a Christmas tree, a friend). Make sure to draw a copy of each symbol on the second sheet of paper so that you fill all 16 squares.
4. Cut out your 16 squares, mix them up, and turn them face down on the table. Try and match your memories! This is fun to play with a family member, especially if you share any of the memories.

Activity 2: Tinfoil Monoprint

Recommended age group: Upper elementary school

The works in Anne C. Smith's monoprint series each feature a horizon line and rectangles or "windows". Though these elements are found in every work, the windows shift to different sections of the prints. Do you notice any other differences? If you look closely, you will see that the colors change from work to work. For example, several prints feature very pale blues, greys, and oranges, while others add bolder colors like deep yellows and reds. Do you notice any other differences? What about texture? Some of the works look extremely smooth, while others have more variation, and look "rougher" in some areas.

You can make your very own monoprint series with just a few simple supplies: Cardboard, scissors, pencil, tinfoil, paint (acrylic or tempera), a paintbrush or roller, computer paper, and a cotton swabs (Q-tips).



1. Start by drawing a circle on the cardboard. It should be no larger than a sheet of computer paper. Cut out the circle.
2. Cover your cardboard circle with tinfoil, securing the ends of the foil on the back and making sure that the foil is smooth on the front.
3. Apply a single color of paint to the smooth side of your foil circle, making sure to cover all of the foil at the edges.
4. Next, draw a pattern on the paint with a cotton swab. It could be a flower, your favorite animal, or your name. Be creative!
5. When you are ready, place a sheet of computer paper on top of the paint. Firmly press the paper down with your fingers and palms to make sure the entire paper picks up the paint.
6. Slowly peel the paper off of the tin foil to reveal your print!
7. Continue to create variations of this print by reapplying paint – this time in a different color or multiple colors – and retracing your original design. You can also add new markings by pressing bubble wrap on the paint or by drawing with a different utensil such as a toothpick or a fork.

Activity 3: Tomorrow's Window Collage

Recommended age group: Middle school – High school

The artist was completing this series when the current pandemic was starting. The challenges that go along with this ongoing event, such as staying at home and being apart from family and friends, were on her mind. For Smith, the window in her work represents the tension between inside and outside. It also represents hope and the things that we have to look forward to in the future.



This project will allow you to name and visualize events which you are looking forward to. You will need: a sheet of paper, a ruler, a pencil, glue, and old magazines/newspapers.

1. Draw a straight line down the center of your paper. Turn the paper and draw another straight line down to create a cross or window shape.
2. Each of the four spaces or quadrants will represent a hope or dream you have. The first is a hope for tomorrow (i.e. to talk to my friend on FaceTime), the second is for next week (i.e. to complete a project), the third is for next month (to learn to bake a pie for Thanksgiving), the fourth is for next year (to go to the beach with family).
3. Find images in magazines that represent these hopes and cut/past them onto the corresponding quadrant. You can also draw your dreams. Keep this window to remind you of the good things that are ahead!