

# MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

**Age:** Second Grade

**Lesson Duration:** 1 hour

**Subject:** Social Studies/Community

## Community Snow Globes

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY  
DESIGNED BY MoNA  
EDUCATORS



*Finished snow globes  
Image Credit: MoNA Educator*

### Description

During this activity, students will observe how other artists have represented their communities through the Seattle based "Free Little Art Gallery" project. Students will then make their own snow globe which represents important elements of their community.

### Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Community
- ✓ Symbol

### Materials

- Mason Jars
- Water
- Glycerine
- Silver & blue glitter
- Hot glue gun & glue
- Polystyrene shrinking paper
- Scrap paper & pencils
- Permanent markers
- Oven or toaster oven
- VTS images (located at the end of the lesson)

## Instructions

- 1)** Begin the lesson by introducing students to the Free Little Art Gallery. Use VTS to examine the gallery images more closely.
  - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
- 2)** Building on the VTS activity, have the students think about the big idea of why the little gallery is important. Lead a group discussion to help generate ideas for images that represent their community to include in their snow globes. You may wish to brainstorm elements of a community as a group to help elicit multiple ideas or share a book that shows different community settings.
- 3)** Students will sketch their ideas using pencil on scrap paper and then draw them on the polystyrene paper using permanent markers.
- 4)** Teachers will shrink the polystyrene designs in the toaster oven.
- 5)** The polystyrene image will be hot glued to the cap of the jar. The students (with help from the teachers) will fill their jars with glycerin, water, and glitter, and then screw the top on to make their finished community snow globe. If you want extra protection to keep kids from opening the jars, you can add some hot glue in the seam when you screw on the lids.

## Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cr1.2.2** (Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity)

# Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development, including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art, encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

*What's going on in this picture?*  
*What do you see that makes you say...?*  
*What more can you find?*

## Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: [www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators](http://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators)

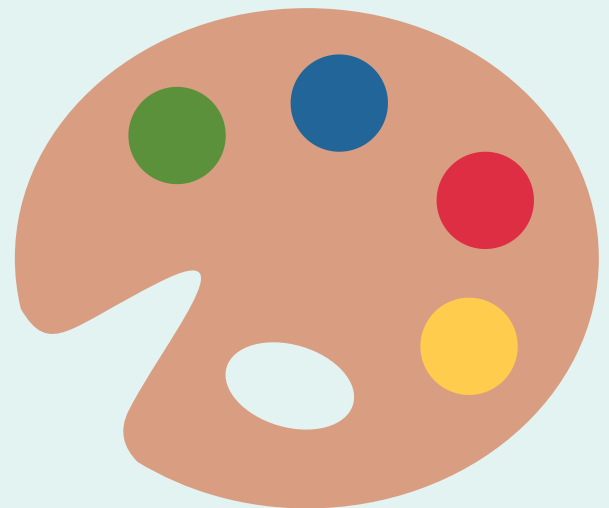
# Inspiration: Free Little Art Gallery

The Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG) is a community curated, miniature art gallery located in Seattle, Washington. Local artist Stacy Milrany thought of the idea after using her art as a way to connect with and show support to her mother during cancer treatment when they couldn't be physically together. After the initial closures of the city during the COVID-19 pandemic, Milrany thought to take her small project on a larger scale to allow her community to connect with each other through art despite the physical barriers that COVID-19 had put in place.

Visitors to the gallery are encouraged to contribute their own pieces to the collection and take any pieces they enjoy home. For more information, please visit [www.milrany.com/free-little-art-gallery](http://www.milrany.com/free-little-art-gallery).



Stacy Milrany with FLAG  
Image Credit: milrany.com





*Chicken Farmer by Patrick LoCicero  
Image Source: milrany.com*



*Discovery Park by Janee Kreinheder  
Image Source: milrany.com*





*Skier and Queen Anne Snowy owl  
By Lauren Clisham*

*Image Source: milrany.com*