

## Outside My Window

**Inspiration:** Jacob Lawrence's *The Studio*, 1977

**Ages:** 8–11 (Grades 3–5)

**Duration:** 20–30 minutes

**Materials:**

- Markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons
- Paper or cardboard
- Optional: mixed-media paper and recyclables, like fabric scraps, empty boxes, old magazines, old newspapers, and anything you find around the house
- Optional: glue or tape



Jacob Lawrence. *The Studio*, 1996. Lithograph. Museum Purchase, 2018 (2018.05).

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## Procedure:

1. In his work *The Studio*, Jacob Lawrence paints both an interior scene (the inside of his art studio) and an exterior scene (the cityscape that is outside the window).
2. Look outside your window. What do you see?
3. Think about how the view outside your window represents what makes the place you live special. Maybe you have your own landmarks or favorite buildings that are specific to your location or parts of the natural landscape that you can see.
4. Using the materials, create a cityscape based on what you see outside of your window. This can be made using just paper and a pencil, or with colors.
5. You can create an image like Jacob Lawrence's, adding details of the interior you're in.
6. You can create your exterior window scene only. Where would you place yourself if you were outside?
7. Optional: If you would like to create a collage, use recycled cardboard for the supporting surface, or base (cutting up an old cereal box works well!). Cut up scrap paper and fabric and glue or tape the pieces to the cardboard and use markers and crayons to make your own landscape.

## Share your work:

Take a photo of your work and post it to Instagram using the hashtags #MuseumFromHome, #SelfInTheCity, or #OutsideMyWindow, and tag the HRM.



## Glossary & Further Reading

**Cityscape:** An image with urban scenery as its primary focus; an urban environment.

**Exterior:** The outer surface or structure of something, someplace, or someone.

**Interior:** Situated or related to the inside of something, someplace, or someone.

**Landmark:** A building or place that is easily recognized, especially one that you can use to identify where you are.

**Landscape:** The natural landforms of a region; also, an image that has natural scenery such as mountains, valleys, rivers, trees, and forests as its primary focus. Landscape artwork primarily focuses on this natural scenery.

**Rural:** Describes an area that is in, related to, or similar in detail to the countryside instead of a town or city. Rural areas have fewer people in them than suburban or urban areas, and residences are usually very far apart.

**Suburban:** Describes an area that is smaller and located outside of an urban area, with more homes, buildings, and a larger population of people than a rural area.

**Urban:** Describes an area that is connected with a town or city, where there are many buildings and structures close together and a large population of people.

### HRM's Self in the City

<https://www.hrm.org/exhibitions/self-in-the-city/>

### Art Bridges Foundation

<https://artbridgesfoundation.org/>