

## Imagining My City

**Inspiration:** Jacob Lawrence's *The Studio*, 1977 and Susan Hall's *Moving Home*, 1978 (see [hrm.org/self-in-the-city](http://hrm.org/self-in-the-city) for images)

**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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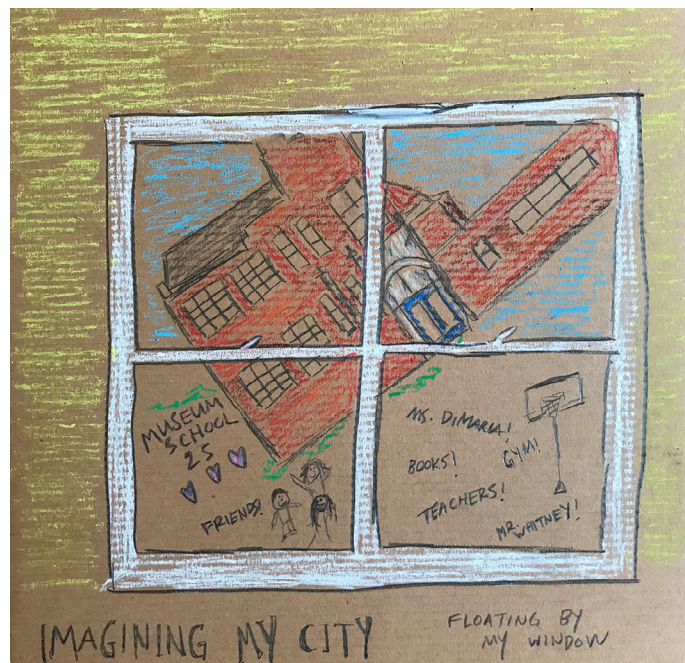
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## Procedure:

1. Jacob Lawrence created *The Studio* when he was living in Seattle, Washington. The scene outside the window, however, looks like the building and streets of his home neighborhood of Harlem in New York City. Why do you think he may have included a memory of a place in the window instead of what he was actually seeing when he looked outside?
2. Susan Hall lived in Greenwich Village, New York City, when she created *Moving Home*. She moved to NYC from California. She had a lot of close friends and a community in New York City, but still wanted to make artwork that helped her think about what “home” really meant to her.
3. Sometimes, home is an emotion and not necessarily the physical place where we spend our time, sleep, and eat. Sometimes, we have to travel using our memories and imaginations to feel at home.
4. Where do you feel happy, relaxed, and joyful when you are not at home?
5. Think about this place that you are excited to visit again in the future. Where is this place? What landmarks and features can you include in the scene? What can you add to this place to make it even more like your feeling of home? Are you there alone, or are other people with you? What do you do in this place?
6. Imagine this place floating by your window. Using pencil and paper or colors, draw your scene.

## 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/>