

Create Your Own Impression



Pre-Visit Timeline

- 1848** – The first train crosses the Mianus River Bridge, completing the railroad link between New York and Greenwich
- 1882** – Josephine and Edward Holley rent the Old House (now Bush-Holley House) from Stamford Bank and run it as a boarding house
- 1884** – Josephine and Edward Holley purchase the Old House from Stamford Bank
- 1886** – The first major exhibition of French Impressionist paintings and pastels in the United States is shown in New York at the American Art Association and the National Academy of Design
- 1892** – John Henry Twachtman and J. Alden Weir, American Impressionist painters, teach summer courses at the Old House
- 1894** – Theodore Robinson, American Impressionist painter, rooms at the Old House during the summer
- 1894** – Childe Hassam visits the Old House and is a regular visitor through 1918
- 1895** – Elmer MacRae enrolls in the Art Students League where he studies under Twachtman
- 1896** – As a student at the Art Students League in New York City, Elmer MacRae attends a summer class at the Old House taught by Twachtman and meets Emma Constant Holley
- 1897** – Genjiro Yeto, a Japanese student of Twachtman and friend of Elmer MacRae, stays at the Old House for the first time
- 1900** – Emma Constant Holley marries Elmer MacRae and assumes a larger responsibility in running the boarding house
- 1904** – Twins, Constant and Clarissa MacRae, are born
- 1906** – Edward and Josephine Holley give full responsibility of the Old House to Emma Constant Holley MacRae
- 1908** – Elmer MacRae mounts his first solo exhibition at the Old House and continues to do so annually through 1911
- 1913** – The International Exhibition of Modern Art is displayed at the 69th Regiment Armory where Elmer MacRae exhibits *[Clarissa] Feeding the Ducks*, 1912
- 1953** – April 3, Elmer MacRae dies at age 77
- 1957** – July 1, the Greenwich Historical Society purchases the Old House from Constant MacRae

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Pre-Visit Worksheet



Vocabulary List

Abstract – A style of painting that does not show exactly what is happening in real life and is usually from the artist’s imagination

En Plein Air – A French term meaning “in the open air” used to describe a technique that Impressionist artists used when painting a landscape outside

Etching – A printing technique in which an artist scratches lines into a metal plate, then applies ink to the plate before pressing it onto paper. The same image can be created multiple times.

Horizon Line – When looking outside, the point where the sky meets the earth

Impressionism – A style of painting that uses short brushstrokes and allows the viewer to see the paint layers, giving an impression of what is happening in a scene but not always giving a lot of details

Landscape – A picture of an outdoor scene, usually with a horizon line

Model – Person who poses for a picture

Perspective – Creating the illusion of a three-dimensional scene on a two-dimensional surface so that parts of the image seem further away than others

Pose – A position that a model stands or sits in for a picture

Printmaking – A category of making art that is used to describe the many different ways of applying an inked image usually to paper in a uniform way, so that all of the prints look the same

Seascape – A picture of an ocean scene, usually with a horizon line

Sight Line – The line of vision that an artist chooses for a picture

Still Life – A picture of one or more objects grouped together, such as glass bottles, fruit or flowers

Studio – A room used by artists for creating artwork

Viewer: A person who looks at a piece of art

Watercolor – A painting technique that uses a brush to apply water and colored pigments to paper

Create Your Own Impression Pre-Visit Worksheet



Activity Sheet

Light Study

Light Absorption on Construction Paper: Using different colors of construction paper, have students guess which color will absorb the most heat from the sun. Tally votes on the sheets and lay them outside with an ice cube on each one and wait to see which ice cube melts the fastest.

Pinhole Image Viewers: Cut the top from an empty, square box of tissues. Fasten a piece of parchment or wax paper over the top with a rubber band. At the bottom of the tissue box make a hole with a pen or pencil in the center and tape a small, plastic magnifying glass over the hole. Take students outside on a sunny day and have them point the pinhole end of the image viewer at non-moving, interesting subjects, such as plant life, and watch the image appear upside-down on the parchment end of the light viewer.

Color Theory

Color Wheel Collage: Using scrapbook paper or magazines, cut out and paste petal or sunray shapes around a circle to make a sun collage with each color on the color wheel represented.



Create Your Own Impression Post-Visit Worksheet

Activity Sheet

When the artists from the Cos Cob art colony visited Bush-Holley House, they often came on the train to escape their busy lives in the city. They not only painted while they were here, but they also visited with one another over the dinner table and enjoyed leisure activities outdoors like fishing or gathering flowers.

Think about the last time you went on a vacation. Where did you go? Who went with you? Did you visit anyone? What kinds of activities did you do?

Using the space below, draw your favorite memory from your last vacation. Then write a sentence to describe it.
