

Artist for Kids - #AFKfromhome – Janet Wang, District Artist-in-residence



Gathered, Foraged inks on paper, 18" x 24"
Janet Wang 2019

We are going to create **3** things today:

- **A blind contour drawing**
- **A contour line drawing**
- **Pressed flowers**

To create this artwork, I gathered some natural materials to create the colour and ink for this drawing. Goldenrod is both the material for the yellow ink, and the subject of the artwork.

For the drawing of the goldenrod flowers, I used black walnut ink – the walnuts were collected from a lovely tree outside of one of our local community centre last summer.

When we don't have access to art stores or to our school supplies, we can still make art out of things that we can gather from nature and by playing around with the materials we can find around our house.



Before we start, go outside and **see what colour you can find outside**. A yellow dandelion? A bright daisy? Some soft green leaves or ferns? See what you can find outside and if they are wild, pick a few. If you are picking from your garden outside, do this with a parent and ask what you might be allowed to pick.

Inside, you can find:

- **Paper** (scraps from your recycling bin are great!)
- **Cardstock** (I used a cereal box cut into rectangles)
- **Pens, pencils, crayons, or pencil crayons**
- **2 heavy books**, or some more cardboard and a few heavy objects (rocks, or canned food)
- **scissors**



This is my **blind contour** drawing. To create your own, select one of your flowers or leaves to draw. I choose a lovely green fern.

To do a blind contour drawing, you will need a pencil or a pen. I used one with a nice sharp point so that I could create little details.

On my cardstock, I fixed my pencil point at the bottom of the page. At the same time, I had my eye focused on the bottom of the stem. **I only looked at the fern the entire time, and not at my pencil!**

I like to imagine that my eye is going to move around the lines around the stem, and the edges around each leaf, and will move as slowly as a little ant crawling all around exploring every detail.

At the same time, my pencil moves at the same speed on my paper (but don't peek at your paper!). This one took me about 4-5 minutes to draw.

It's fun to see that the drawing isn't perfect and goes kind of wonky, but that I get interesting details as I carefully look at the shape of each part of the fern.



Next, I created a **line contour drawing**. This time, I looked at my pen and paper, but only half of the time. I tried to keep the same slow movement of my eye travelling around the shapes, while moving my pen as slowly to match.

Can you make your hand and your eye match each other in movement?

It's interesting to see how much we notice when we look at things more closely. Even if we aren't able to see our friends or some family members in person, we can still try to notice how they are feeling and try to show them what the world around us looks like now.

These drawings can be turned into a postcard that we mail to someone special. Just paste some plain paper to the back and ask a parent to help you with the address and a stamp.



Now that we're done our drawings, **let's take those flowers and leaves and turn them into an art material** for next week's project!

Take a piece of your scrap paper and fold this in half.

You can then arrange your flowers and leaves inside the folded paper. I cut some of the stems off of the daisies so I could lay them down flat and left a stem on another for some variety.

Once you've fit these on here (and you can do more than one sheet of flowers...I did 3 or 4 of these!) close the folded paper over these gently. Open up your big, heavy book, and place your flowers in the middle of the book. Close it up and weigh the book down with another book or some rocks or cans. **Leave this for 7-10 days** (and try not to peek!)