

Norton Simon Museum

Family Art Project: Telescope Viewfinder

The skill of 17th-century Dutch artists Rachel Ruysch and Jacob van Ruisdael's skill at depicting nature can be seen in the scientific detail in their artworks. Ruysch's still life features snapdragons, roses and gerberas, among others, and if you look closely, you'll also find a butterfly, bee, dragonfly and cricket in the composition. Ruisdael's trees are so naturalistic that botanists have been able to identify them as one birch and two oak trees. Create a telescope viewfinder to look through and notice the details of your surroundings. Then, draw what you see!



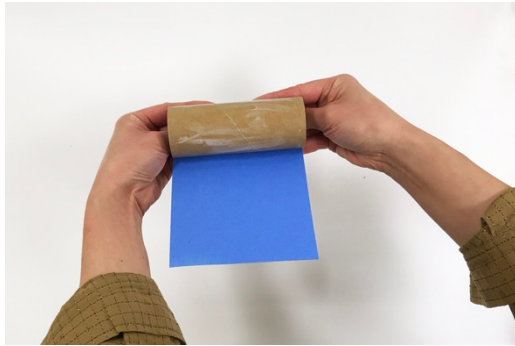
L-R: Rachel Ruysch (Dutch, 1664/5–1750), *Nosegay on a Marble Plinth*, c. 1695, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation;
Jacob van Ruisdael (Dutch, 1628/9–1682), *Three Great Trees in a Mountainous Landscape with a River*, c. 1665–70, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation.

Materials:



- Toilet paper roll
- Collage papers
- Construction paper
(1 sheet, 4.5"x 6")
- Glue
- Foam brush
- Scissors
- Paper
- Pencil

Steps:

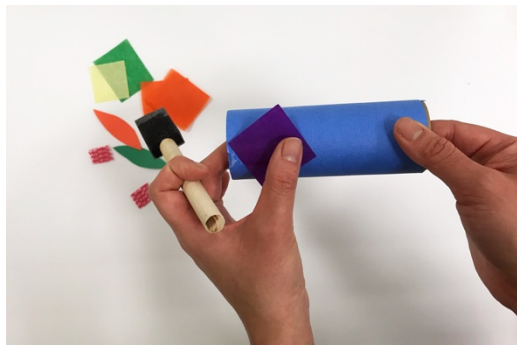


Using a foam brush, add glue all around your toilet paper roll and wrap your sheet of construction paper around the roll. This will be your base color.

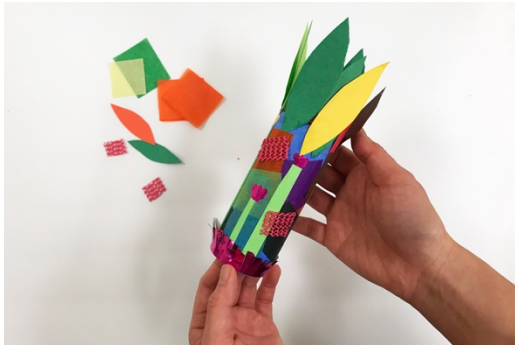
You can also collage directly onto the roll.



Choose your favorite collage papers and cut them out into your desired shapes and glue them onto your telescope. Explore pattern by repeating shapes and colors.



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Take your viewfinder outside and find a detail that catches your eyes.





Using a paper and pencil, draw what you see!