Far, Far Away
Group Visits Curriculum Guide

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About the Exhibition
Far, Far Away

The Children’s Museum of the Arts is pleased to announce *Far, Far Away…*, on view in the Cynthia C. Wainwright Gallery. *Far, Far Away…* is an exhibition that considers the possibility of alternate worlds, dreamscapes and imagined landscapes - places where adventures occur and fantasy takes over.

Artworks featured in this exhibition will captivate and inspire us by evoking dreams of places that may only exist in our imaginations. In practice, many of these works highlight the artist’s process of manipulation. At the heart, these works celebrate storytelling and the power of visual art to weave a tale without using any text at all. Some works consist of dream-like fantasies filled with details and discoveries, while others address issues of youthful turmoil, awkward transitions between childhood and adulthood, or of ever-changing identity or illusion. Audiences are urged to fill in the blanks for themselves, identify with the familiar and non-familiar, and venture into the unknown, all before returning home safely. Please join us as we transport you into a world of transformation where anything is possible.

**Exhibiting Artists:** Meghan Boody, Joe Fig, Julie Heffernan, Gail LeBoff, Ethan Murrow, Virginia Wagner

**Essential Questions**
Have you been to a place that is far, far away?

What is a landscape?

A landscape is a place that can be indoors or outdoors and can combine things from both our imagination and the real world.

What is imaginary?

Imaginary is something new that we create that does not already exist in the real world/every day life.
Lesson 1: Mixed Media Imaginary Landscapes: Characters & Places

**Activity:** Students will make imaginary landscapes for their characters by drawing with oil pastels, sticking tape and foam stickers, rolling wet foam rollers on bleeding tissue paper, and gluing collage materials.

**Objective:** Through making mixed media imaginary landscapes for their characters, students will learn that they can:
1) Invent new stories using their imagination inspired by the real world/surroundings
2) Make new shapes that come together to form a picture
3) Layer materials to transform and cover shapes and forms
4) Create different textured surfaces

**Materials:** Long Cardstock Paper
1) Drawing: Thick Oil Pastels
2) Collage: Diluted Glue in Squirt Bottle, Colored Tape, Foam Shape Stickers, Metallic Paper and Mesh
3) Painting: Bleeding Tissue Paper, Wet Sponge Rollers, Tub of Water

**LOOK**

Image 1: Meghan Body, *Petite Cherie* (But to the tender flesh it went right in), From Series Psyche and the Beast, Crystal Archive Print Mounted to Plexiglass, 2014
What do you see? What types of characters do you see? What type of place are these characters in? What story does this painting tell us about these characters and this place?

Image 2: Julie Heffernen, *Self-Portrait as Tree House*, 2015, Oil on Canvas
What do you see? How is this painting an imaginary landscape? Who lives in this place?

Image 3: Julie Hefferman & Virginia Wagner, *In Which We Were Whole and Hollow II*, Foam, Concrete, Sawdust, Sticks, Hair and Video Installation, 2015
How is this artwork similar or different than the other artwork that we just saw? What materials did the artist use? What do you think these materials feel like?

**MAKE**

Opening Statement: In the gallery, we looked at artworks of imaginary landscapes of different characters and places. Also, we saw that artists
used different types of materials (drawing, painting, collage, photography) to make their landscapes.

**Topic Question:** What is an imaginary landscape?

**Recap:** We learnt that an imaginary landscape is a place (indoor/outdoor, outer-space) that we have never seen before. It can combine things that we see in our everyday life with things from our imagination. This place can have characters such as people, animals, and creatures.

**Visualization:** Today, we will be making pictures of an imaginary place for your character using different types of materials. What type of character will you make? What type of imaginary place do you see your character in? Where does it live? What does it like to do? What types of materials will you use?

**Recap:** We learnt that we can use our imagination to think of a new place for our character. Also, we learnt that we can layer materials on top of each other to make new shapes and textures.

**Transition:** How will you start drawing your imaginary landscape (character and place)? How will you layer materials on top of each other?

**SHARE**

Would someone like to share the story of your landscape? What does this place tell us about your character? How did you as an artist decide to use your materials?
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