

Exploring Nature and Making Your Own Pointillist Painting

This activity will guide you in creating a Pointillist painting inspired by the technique used in Achille Laugé's *La route (The Road)*.

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Moderate



Investigate the Work of Art!

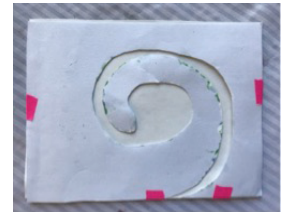
1. In the summer months, we rely on trees to give us shade in order to stay cool. What are some other important ways that nature provides for us?
2. The artists who created Pointillist paintings spent a lot of time outside looking closely at nature in order to capture the details. When you look at the close-up image of the line of trees, how many colors can you identify?
3. How does the technique of using many small dots affect the way this painting looks?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Paint (finger paint, acrylic, or tempera)
- Table cover
- Water cup
- Medium-sized paint brush
- White paper (the thicker the better)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Tape
- Paper towel



Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Think about your favorite thing to do in nature. Use this as inspiration for your image.

Example: If your favorite thing to do in nature is to play soccer at the park, then grass will be your stencil image. For our sample, we did waves in the ocean.

2. Cut your paper in half. One half will be the stencil and the other will be the painting.

3. Using one half of your paper, create a stencil by cutting a shape into it.

4. Pick at least three paint colors that you will use to create the image.

5. Use fingers or a brush to create dots.

6. Keep going until you can't see any white paper through the stencil.

7. Remove the stencil.

Note: To help your little artist make connections, play the sounds of nature as they complete their masterpiece.

Family Programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive generous support from the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

Learning and Interpretation programs receive generous funding from the Jerold B. Katz Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services; H-E-B; MD Anderson Cancer Center; Sharon G. Dies; Sterling-Turner Foundation; Houston Junior Woman's Club; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Samuel H. Kress Foundation; The Brown Foundation, Inc.; Susan Vaughan Foundation; and additional generous donors.

Achille Laugé, *La route (The Road)*, 1893, oil on canvas, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the John A. and Audrey Jones Beck Collection, museum purchase funded by the Audrey Jones Beck Accessions Endowment Fund, 2017.167.