

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family projects

Spotlight on CAM's Collection

MINNIE EVANS

About the Artist:

"I never plan a drawing, they just happen. In a dream it was shown to me what I have to do, of paintings. The whole entire horizon all the way across the whole earth was out together like this with pictures. All over my yard, up all the sides of trees and everywhere were pictures." — Minnie Evans quoted in Nina Howell Starr, "The Lost World of Minnie Evans."

Minnie Eva Evans (December 12, 1892 – December 16, 1987) was an African American artist who worked in the United States from the 1940s to the 1980s. Evans used different media in her work but started with using wax and crayon. She was inspired to start drawing due to visions and dreams that she had when she was a young girl. She is known as a southern folk artist and as a surrealist and visionary artist as well. Minnie Evans worked as a domestic employee and gatekeeper at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, but she had a rich dream life that inspired her to create vibrant works of art.

ART AT HOME – Symmetrical Painting

What you'll need:

- Cardstock/thick construction paper
- Paint (washable tempura recommended)
- Paint brushes (any size will work)
- Cups/containers for paint, or use a plate as your palette
- Paper Towels
- If you are working inside, something to cover your table (newspaper, tablecloth, etc.)

We recommend working outside if weather permitting. You can be inspired by the nature around you, just like Minnie Evans!

- Step 1. Fold your paper down the middle.
- Step 2. Choose which side you will be painting directly onto.
- Step 3. Begin painting on one side of the paper. Since paint dries quickly, we recommend doing simple shapes and lines.
- Step 4. Fold the other side of the paper onto the painted side. Use your hand to smooth it over.
- Step 5. Unfold your paper to see your first symmetrical design!
- Step 6. Continue to add more painted shapes, lines and designs to one side of your paper, folding the paper in half and smoothing over after each addition.
- Step 7. Your painting is complete when it looks the way you want it to look! Place outside in the sun to dry.
- Step 8. Give your painting a name, and make sure to sign it!
- Step 9. Help clean up your supplies and workspace.

Tips:

- Designate certain paint brushes for certain colors, so you don't mix the colors together.
- Be sure to fold the paper frequently, so that the paint doesn't dry in the meantime.
- Make sure the paint isn't too thick, so that way your paper doesn't tear.
- If something doesn't come out the way you thought it would, make something new out of it! Sometimes the best part of your work of art are the parts that were unplanned.

Questions to ask one another:

- Look deeply at Minnie Evans' painting. Name 10 things that you see. You can go back and forth with you family members. Can you name 20?
- If you could give this painting a name, what would it be?
- What was your favorite part about making your own painting?

FOLLOW UP PROJECT IDEA-

- When you wake up tomorrow, think about the dreams you had (writing it out loud or telling your family about it may help you remember). Create a new painting based on YOUR dream!