

## Painting En Plien Air

Inspired by artist John Climenhage, currently exhibiting as part of our “Presently” exhibition at the Art Gallery of Peterborough.

His series of paintings, which are part of a much larger series called *Around*, shows a great deal of attention from the artists to the neighbourhoods and urban architecture of our community, Peterborough. These works were painted *en plien air*, which is French for “in the open air.” It simply means to paint outside.

In this activity, which is a great way for families to spend some time outside, you will take your painting supplies to a nice area outdoors and practice some mindfulness as you enjoy the fresh air and get creative.

### Suitability: 6+

#### You Will Need:

- A sheet of paper, cardboard, bristol board, or canvas – just something to paint on
- A pencil
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Container with water to wash your brushes

#### Step 1:

Think about an open outdoor area that you enjoy. This could be a place that you frequently walk past or a place you like to visit. It could be your backyard, a park, nature trail, or anywhere that’s outdoors, open, and safe for you to visit. In our example, we chose our backyard at Little Lake.

If you cannot go outside you can always paint the view from a window!

#### Step 2:

Once you have chosen your place, gather your art supplies and take them with you. Set up in a place that is comfortable and safe, and make sure you are prepared for the weather.

#### Step 3:

Using your pencil, draw the outlines of your chosen landscape! Sketching it out in pencil before you begin painting is an easy way to capture details and work out your composition, because pencil is a lot easier to erase than paint.

#### Step 4:

Once you’ve finished your sketch you can start painting your landscape! Focus on the shapes and colours in your landscape first, then gradually add more and more detail. The goal of this activity is not a race, but to be mindful of your surroundings and make a painting that reflects the landscape.

#### Step 5:

When you have finished your painting, take it home and let it dry. Feel encouraged to display your work in your home, take a picture and share it with friends, or even tag us at @AGPtbo\_ and #AGPtbo on social media.