

The Benton

Connecticut's State Art Museum

Encounters with the Collection :



Thank you for exploring The William Benton Museum of Art's exhibitions.

Encounters with the Collection: Wood is the first in a series of annual permanent collection gallery rotations that will bring fresh perspectives to the interpretation of the Benton's holdings. This installation is a wide-ranging look at wood as a material in artmaking.

- Review the exhibition introduction:
<https://www.bentonmuseumofart.com/intro-panel>
- Check out the online exhibition:
<https://www.bentonmuseumofart.com>
- Take a closer look at these landscape paintings by Harry Leith-Ross:
<https://www.bentonmuseumofart.com/harry-leith-ross>

Example discussion questions:

- What do you see in these paintings?
- How are the figures interacting with the landscape?
- How would you describe the mood in these paintings?

- What do you see that makes you say that?

Curriculum connections: explore Connecticut forests; did you know that several of the frames for these works of art—and the logs pictured in the paintings—were made from American chestnut? Learn more about these forests and the Chestnut Blight Disease that emerged in 1910.

<https://Portal.ct.gov/CAES/Fact-Sheets/Plant-Pathology/Connecticut-Chestnut-Research-Breeding-and-Biological-Control>

- Try a hands-on related art project: take a nature walk and find as much bark on the ground as you can. Pieces and scraps of bark may be found in many different shapes and sizes. Select a piece of bark, stretch your imagination, and turn it into an animal. Does the shape look like a bird, mammal, reptile, or fish? Add natural or constructed accessories to define your creature's features.
- **Visit the exhibition in-person: on view through July 30, 2022.** The William Benton Museum of Art is easily accessible and located on the UConn campus, 245 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT. For information on k-12 field trips, please contact Mollie Sixsmith, Curator of Education at 860-486-1711 or mollie.sixsmith@uconn.edu.
- New exhibition coming this summer! Save the date for:

WILD THINGS ARE HAPPENING

The Art of Maurice Sendak

May 31-October 9, 2022

This exhibition, created in collaboration with the Maurice Sendak Foundation, the University of Connecticut Library, and the Columbus Museum of Art features the work created by this beloved children's book author and illustrator and the work that inspired him.