



Making Their Mark: American Women Artists

Family Guide

American Women Artists (AWA) is an organization that celebrates women artists and their contributions to the art world. AWA began during the exhibition ***Women Artists from the West*** in 1990 with only 12 artists, but has grown to include hundreds of artists today. AWA plans to participate in 25 museum exhibitions over the next 25 years in order to increase awareness of more women artists in museums across the country and beyond. The Booth Museum is the fifth museum to host an AWA exhibition, showcasing over 100 pieces of artwork from various female artists and mediums.

One piece in this exhibit is called ***The Secret Keepers*** by Lisa Gleim (right). The artist chose animals that have special meanings, such as the raven. Ravens, in some Native American stories, are known to be keepers of secrets, while the bear often represents knowledge and wisdom.

What kind of secrets do you think the ravens are keeping? If you could paint any animal what would it be?



Lisa Gleim, ***The Secret Keepers***, 2019, Pastel,



Nancy Lane, ***Wild Solitude***, Oil on panel

Some paintings in the exhibition show the connection between people and nature, just like in Nancy Lane's painting, ***Wild Solitude*** (left). Have you ever noticed how being outside can be calming? ***Wild Solitude*** combines a **landscape** painting (the features of land in an image) with the **portrait** (a painting or drawing of a person) of a young woman. Landscape artists often recreate beautiful scenes of nature that allow us to imagine what it would be like to visit those places in person.

Do you have a favorite place outside you like to go?

Do you see a painting that shows something similar to your favorite place?

Discuss: Karen Budan created a fun oil painting with lots of color and texture called **Color Riot** (right). Did you know colors in art can make people feel different emotions? Colors like red, yellow, and orange can remind someone of comfort or anger. Colors like blue, green, and purple can feel calm and sad. What do you think makes this painting fun? Is it the balloons and streamers or the variety of bright colors?

Examine: An important part of art is **texture** (the way something feels when you touch it). Texture in paintings can show the way something feels if you were able to actually touch it. How do you think the artist shows texture in this painting?

Find: Look around the exhibit. Do you see other works of art that contain lots of color? Are there any other works of art that does not much color? How does a piece without color make you feel?



Karen Budan, **Color Riot**, Oil on panel

Try This!

Did you know that you can mix your own colors? Three **primary colors** (red, blue, and yellow) can be mixed together to create many more colors. **Complementary colors** are opposite colors from each other on a color wheel (ex. red and green, blue and orange). To the left is a blank color wheel. A **color wheel** is used to show the relationship between colors. Can you find the three primary colors and color them in? Use markers, paint or crayons to color the flower as labeled. When you are finished you will have your own color wheel!

