



ART IN THE PARK

Self-guided tour booklet for educators of elementary age Art Explorers



FULL
TOUR IS 2
HOURS

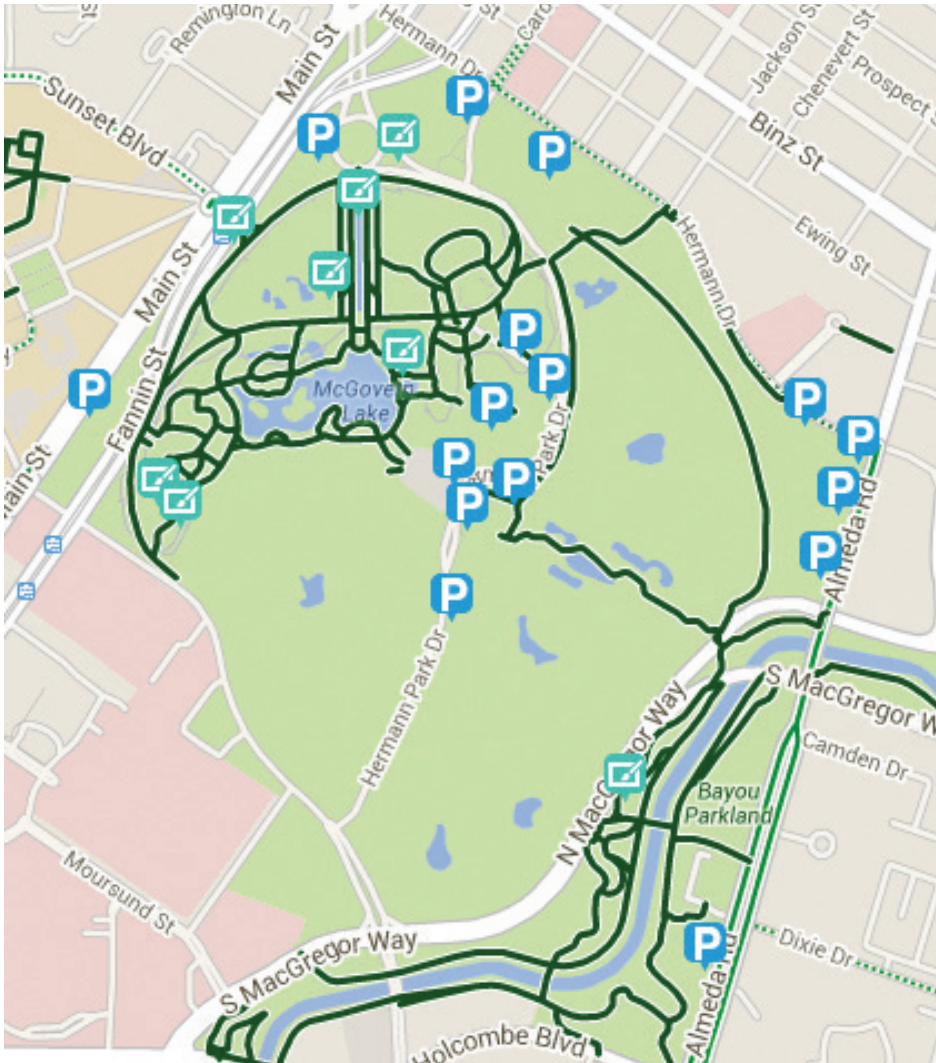
WELCOME!

Hello & Welcome to Hermann Park, Art Explorers!

The Park is celebrating its Centennial birthday this year (100 years!). To commemorate this historic moment generous community patrons have invited local, national and international artists to show and create artwork for the public to experience in our beautiful city park. This interactive educational guide will help you to discuss and engage your elementary age students with the artwork on display.

The following self-guided tour includes discussion topics for each individual artwork as well as hands-on activities that relate with each artwork. It is recommended, but not necessary, that you bring on tour the following art supplies or have them available once you return to class:

Bundle of assorted yarn, assorted colors of crayons, air dry clay (1 cube for each student), **white paper** (3 sheets for each student).



You may use this guide to start your tour wherever you choose in the Park.

LEGEND



Parking



Artwork

An interactive version of this map is available on the HPC website:
hermannpark.org/visit/interactive-map/

THE PROCESS

Engaging with art is a meaningful and lasting experience that reinforces classroom learning and connects students with the world. The following four-step process encourages students to look closely and think carefully about a work of art. The process applies to any work of art that you encounter in the Park — or anywhere! Review this process and practice using it before coming to the Park and engaging with your students.

As you **LOOK**, **DESCRIBE**, **THINK**, and **CONNECT** with your students, please keep in mind that each student may have a different interpretation of a work of art and there are no wrong answers. Encourage your group to share ideas and to think creatively, expressing not only what they like, but also what they don't like and what they might change if they had made it.

The Four-Step Process

1. **LOOK**: encourage students to take in entire works of art, walk around it, looking for details in order to view them from all sides. Ask, "What do you notice?" Encourage students to take note of everything they see.
 - Instruct students to look at a work of art for a few moments, then to turn around and try to remember everything they observed. Have them face the work of art again. What did they remember? What did they overlook?
2. **DESCRIBE**: talk about what you see in the work of art. Just one simple observation should do to get them started.
 - Encourage students to describe their observations in detail.
 - Instruct students to use expressive language to describe what they see in detail. For example, instead of saying, "I see a bug," they could say, "I see a spider; it looks angry."
3. **THINK**: interpret and assign meaning to the work of art. Encourage students to look closely and think about what they see. Encourage students to back up their answers with visual examples by asking, "What do you see that makes you say that?" Discuss the following:
 - What might this work of art be about?
 - What is the mood, or feeling, of the work?
 - What story is taking place?
4. **CONNECT**: relate what you see to your own life. Discuss the following with your students:
 - What does this work of art remind you of? Why?
 - How does this work of art relate to an aspect of your own life?
 - In what ways does this work of art inspire you?

Test it out! Before you arrive in the Park or as you drive in, choose a work of art and use these strategies of **LOOK**, **DESCRIBE**, **THINK**, and **CONNECT** as you look closely with your students. Remember to refer back to these strategies throughout your art tour.

GETTING STARTED

Consult with the map on page 2 to see which artwork is closest to where you parked then flip to the corresponding page in this booklet. Note this booklet starts at the north end of the Park and considers a tour in a counter-clockwise direction.

First Stop:

Louise Bourgeois
Spider

On view through August 1, 2014



Some good questions to ask while still on the bus or while walking over:

What does the word **artist** mean?

What makes you an artist?

What makes an artist a sculptor?



LESSON ONE

Nature as inspiration (Symbol)

The lesson we want to consider at this first stop is how do artists decide what to make? Artists are constantly considering using one visual object (symbol) to mean something else. A common place for inspiration is nature.

LOOK:

Remember, when we want to think more about a work of art, we begin by looking. What do you see?

DESCRIBE:

Now, let's talk about what we have observed. Name and describe the things that you see.

How does seeing this large spider make you feel? Can you name the material used? (bronze)

THINK:

Do you think that Louise Bourgeois sculpted the spider by herself? Do you think she had help? Why do you think she chose a spider?

CONNECT:

The artist named the sculpture "Spider" which became a common theme in her artwork as she identified with the mothering instinct of a spider that would do anything to protect its children.

A spider might scare you but it was inspirational for her — her symbol.

Louise Bourgeois *Spider*



Art Exploration Time: Making a model

What you'll need: Sculpting Clay
Approximate Time: 15–20 minutes



When making a sculpture this large an artist always has help. Before the artist can tell someone else what to do, the artist must use their imagination to think of what they would like to create. The original design a sculptor makes is called a model. This is usually a very small version of the final product that other people can use as a guide of how to make the final larger product.

Step 1:

Think of an insect or animal that for you represents someone in your family you either really admire or want to make fun of.

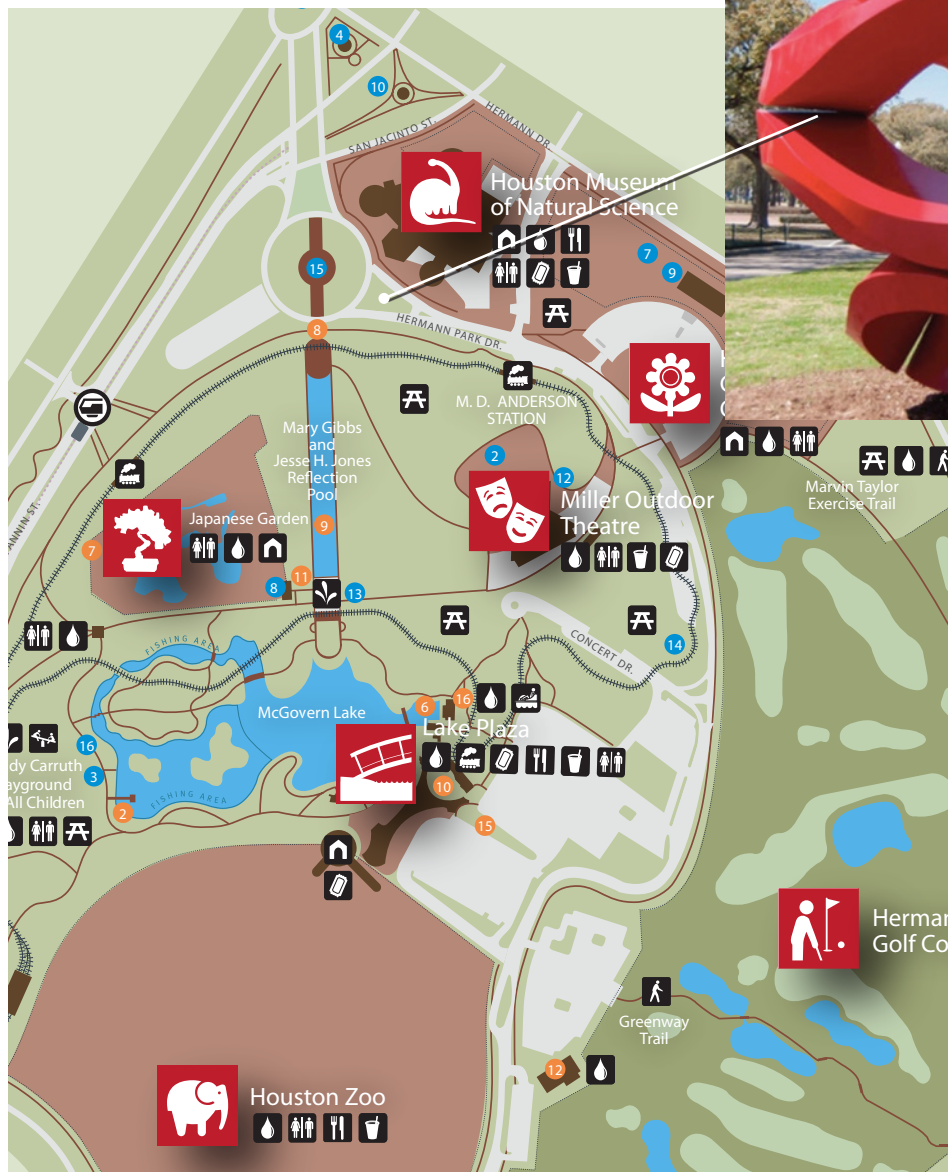
Step 2:

Take your clay and make as well as you can your own model. You can always look around for inspiration (bugs to look at to copy) as well as for twigs or leaves or pebbles to add to your sculpture to make legs and wings.

Next, walk over to the section of trees immediately on the Park side across from the large, round red sculpture east of the Sam Houston Monument across from the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

PLEASE stay on the sidewalk or under the trees for this lesson. If your students have a hard time obeying orders and might go out into the road, then please return to the previous location prior to doing the hands-on activity.

Next Stop:
Yvonne Domenge
Wind Waves
On view through Winter 2015



LESSON TWO

Nature as inspiration (Abstraction)

Just how Louise Bourgeois was inspired by an insect in nature, Yvonne Domenge was also inspired by another element in nature, a seed. The final sculpture looks only vaguely like the seed — this is known as “abstraction.” The major shapes and lines are inspired by the seed but not the bright red color or size.

LOOK:

What do you see?

DESCRIBE:

What colors do you see?

How does this sculpture make you feel? Can you imagine this space without the sculpture? Do you think it has added a nice visual or would you prefer it wasn't there?

THINK:

Yvonne Domenge observed a seed from one of the trees in her garden that really inspired her because of how perfectly it was built. Have you ever looked closely at a seed?



CONNECT:

The artist named the sculpture “Wind Waves” because the waves of the seed reminded her of wind and waves. Do you see wind and waves?

Yvonne Domenge *Wind Waves*



Art Exploration Time: Sketching ideas

What you'll need: paper and crayons

Approximate Time: 15–20 minutes



If it was difficult for you to start sculpting your insect in clay, don't worry. Some artists prefer to draw (sketch) their idea before making it with clay. For this lesson you will get to draw an idea for another sculpture.

Step 1:

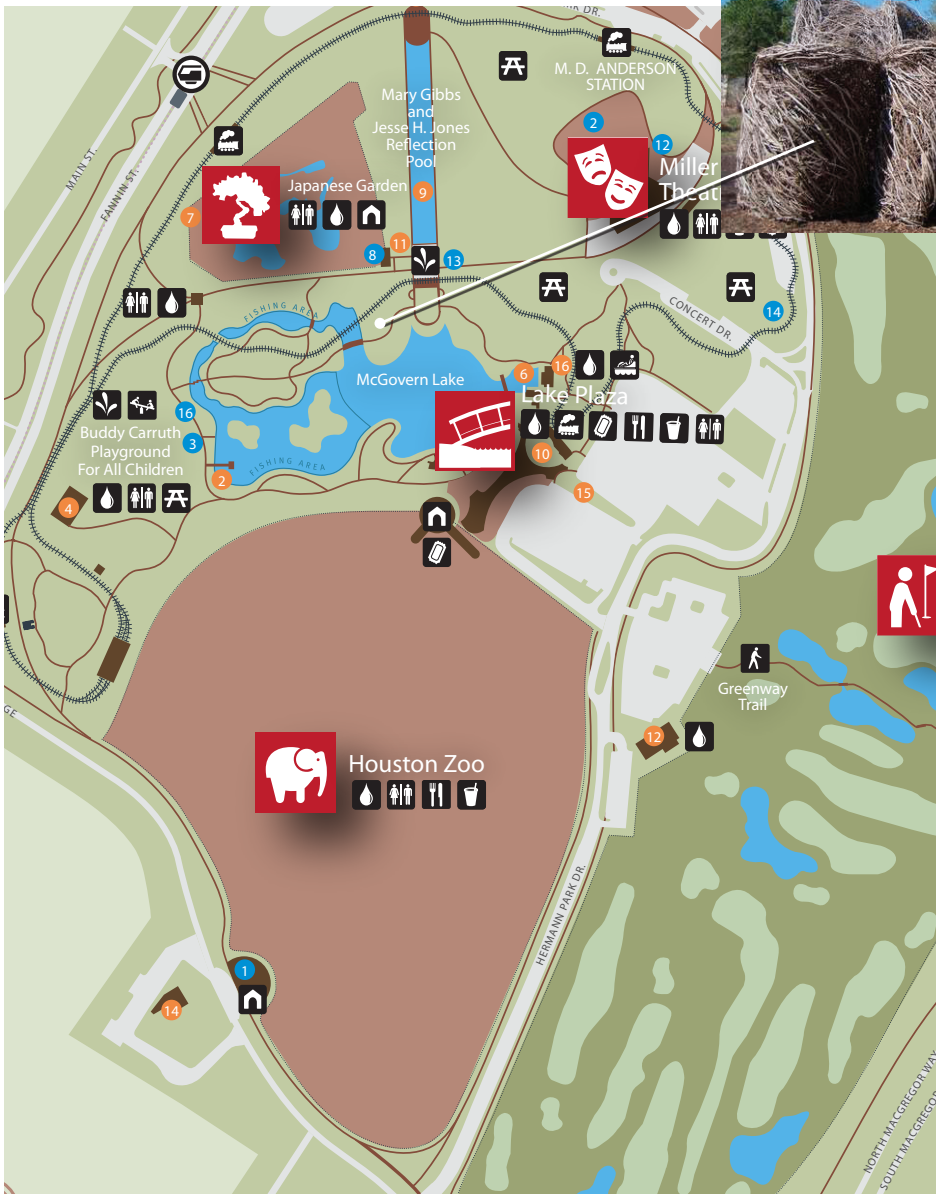
Look around for a seed, leaf, rock or another insect that you would like to try to draw.

Step 2:

Remember that this artist didn't copy the seed exactly, so you don't have to be too exact either. Don't worry if your drawing doesn't look very much like the thing you are drawing. Maybe the color will match or maybe it will be completely different.

Next, walk back over to the Jones Reflection Pool and continue to walk to the end of the pool towards the Japanese Garden. When arriving at the end of the pool you will see the next sculpture made with woven sticks.

Next Stop:
Patrick Dougherty
Boogie Woogie
On view through Winter 2017



LESSON THREE

Nature as material

Deciding what material to make a sculpture out of is an important decision to the final effectiveness of an artwork. In this case, artist Patrick Dougherty chose to use saplings of invasive trees (Chinese Tallow) from here in Houston. Saplings are baby trees. Invasive species are a type of tree that are bad for the environment. It took a couple hundred volunteers and several thousand volunteer hours to make this sculpture. This sculpture will only last for about 3 years before it is turned into mulch and returned to nature.

LOOK:

Walk around the sculpture. Walk inside. Take a good look. What do you see?

DESCRIBE:

How does this sculpture make you feel? Do you like it or would you change it in any way? Does it remind you of anything you have seen before?

THINK:

Would you ever choose to make a sculpture from sticks? Is there any other natural material you might use to make a similar sculpture?

CONNECT:

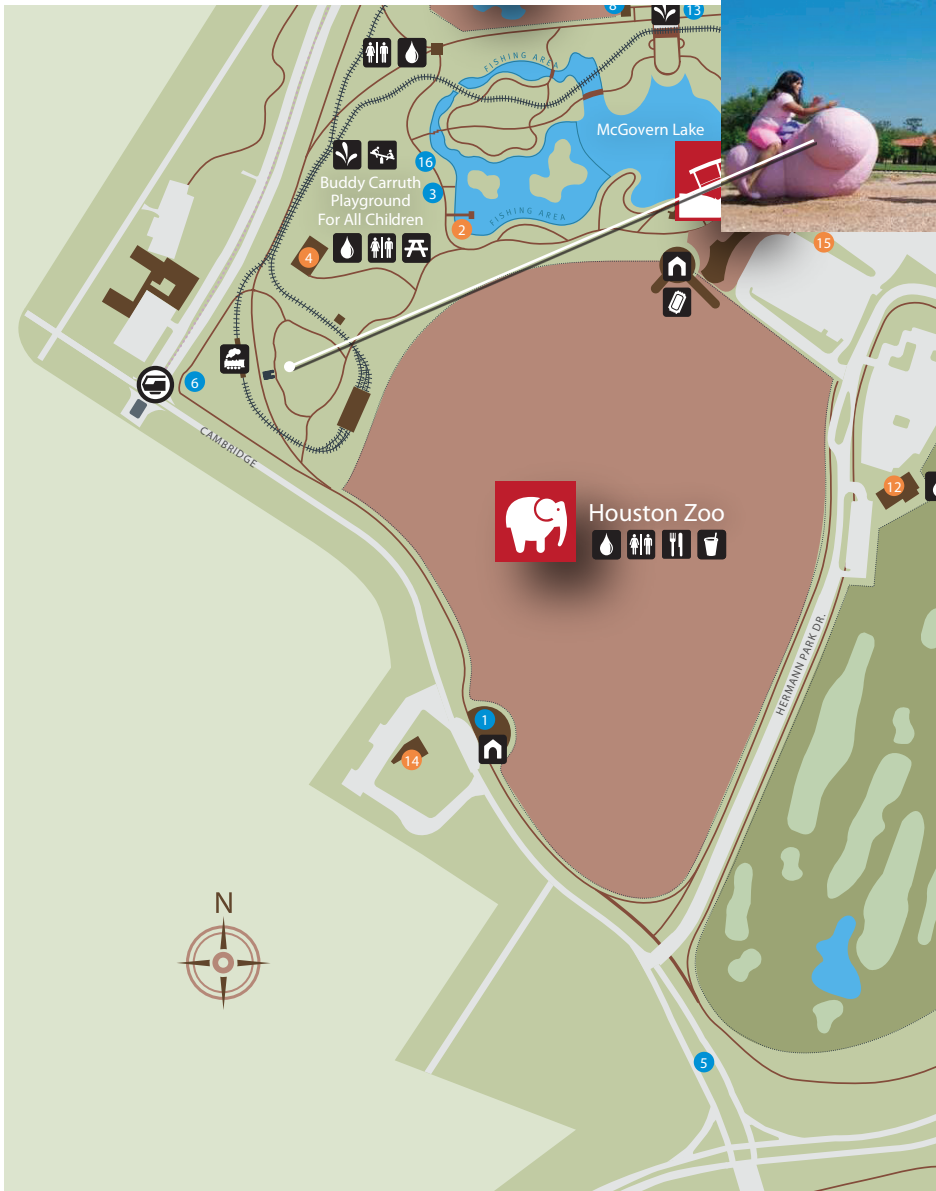
If you were the artist, what name might you have given it?

Patrick Dougherty
Boogie Woogie



Next, walk back in the direction of the Jones Reflection Pool and pass it to continue on the walking trail that is between the Dougherty sculpture and the Japanese Garden. Follow this path all of the way around past the children's playground. Follow around until you encounter large pink sculptures.

Next Stop:
Sharon Engelstein
Dillidiidae
On view through Spring 2017



LESSON FOUR

Nature as stage

Sculptors have to imagine the final destination for their sculptures. Houston-based artist Sharon Engelstein knew exactly where in the Park she wanted her bug-like sculptures to live. She chose to paint them bright pink so that they could stand out against the green grass and trees of the location she chose and a light green one (maybe) to blend in. Nature for Sharon Engelstein is her stage on which her sculptures act similarly to characters in an on-going play.

LOOK:

What do these sculptures look like to you? Why do you think one of them is green?

DESCRIBE:

Do these look like any bugs you have ever seen? Which ones?

How does this sculpture make you feel? Do you like this field with the sculptures in it? Would you add more or less sculptures if this field were your stage? What colors other than pink and green might you have painted your sculptures?

THINK:

Sharon Engelstein was inspired by bugs to make these sculptures. What bug does it remind you of?

CONNECT:

Make up your own title for these sculptures.

Sharon Engelstein
Dillidiidae



Art Exploration Time: Story time

What you'll need: a patch of grass and colored clay

Approximate Time: 20–30 minutes



Before the artist can get started thinking about what she was going to make, she found the perfect place in the Park – the setting for her sculptures to “play.” Imagine you were hired to make a sculpture for your school park, what would it be? What color? What story would it tell?

Step 1:

Look around the Park or think of your school playground to imagine the patch of grass where you want to tell your story.

Step 2:

Now, tell your story. Make your characters out of clay. Remember they are just models for a large sculpture you would put there and they can't talk so make them expressive and meaningful to you. Don't worry if others don't see what you do when you're finished.

Next stop is a bit of a hike (20 minute walk) from your current location toward the southeast corner of the Park passing the zoo and the golf course crossing North MacGregor Way and the Bill Coats Bridge over Brays Bayou.

Next Stop:
Orly Genger
Boys Cry Too
On view through Spring 2015



LESSON FIVE

Nature as canvas

Sculptor Orly Genger was inspired by the green grass over by the Bill Coats Bridge and chose to make her sculpture look more like a painting from above. As you get closer you realize the image you are seeing isn't flat but instead is made of large, heavy, brightly painted rope. This colorful, rough rope is crocheted together and represents both feminine and masculine qualities showing that it is okay to be masculine and have a softer side, as well.

LOOK:

How did this sculpture look as you walked up to it? How does it feel when you touch it? Does it feel different than what you imagined it would when you first saw it?

DESCRIBE:

Does this sculpture remind you of a painting? Do you like this flat sculpture on this hill? Can you identify a figure?

THINK:

Orly Genger works in all sizes. She had help to knit these ropes together. Have you ever knitted? Can you see the relationship between knitting yarn and knitting rope?

What other material could you imagine the artist could have knitted to make something this size? Electrical chords? Water hose?

CONNECT:

Does this sculpture make you think of sculpture differently? Perhaps more like a painting? Or graffiti?

Orly Genger *Boys Cry Too*



Art Exploration Time: Yarn graffiti

What you'll need: brightly colored yarn
Approximate Time: 20–30 minutes



As you saw at the Park not all art has to last forever and sometimes it is there to simply make the scenery more colorful. Think of an object at school that you think could benefit from a pop of temporary color.

Step 1:

Look around the Park or school for a door knob or chair or any object your teacher agrees is fine for a temporary art project.

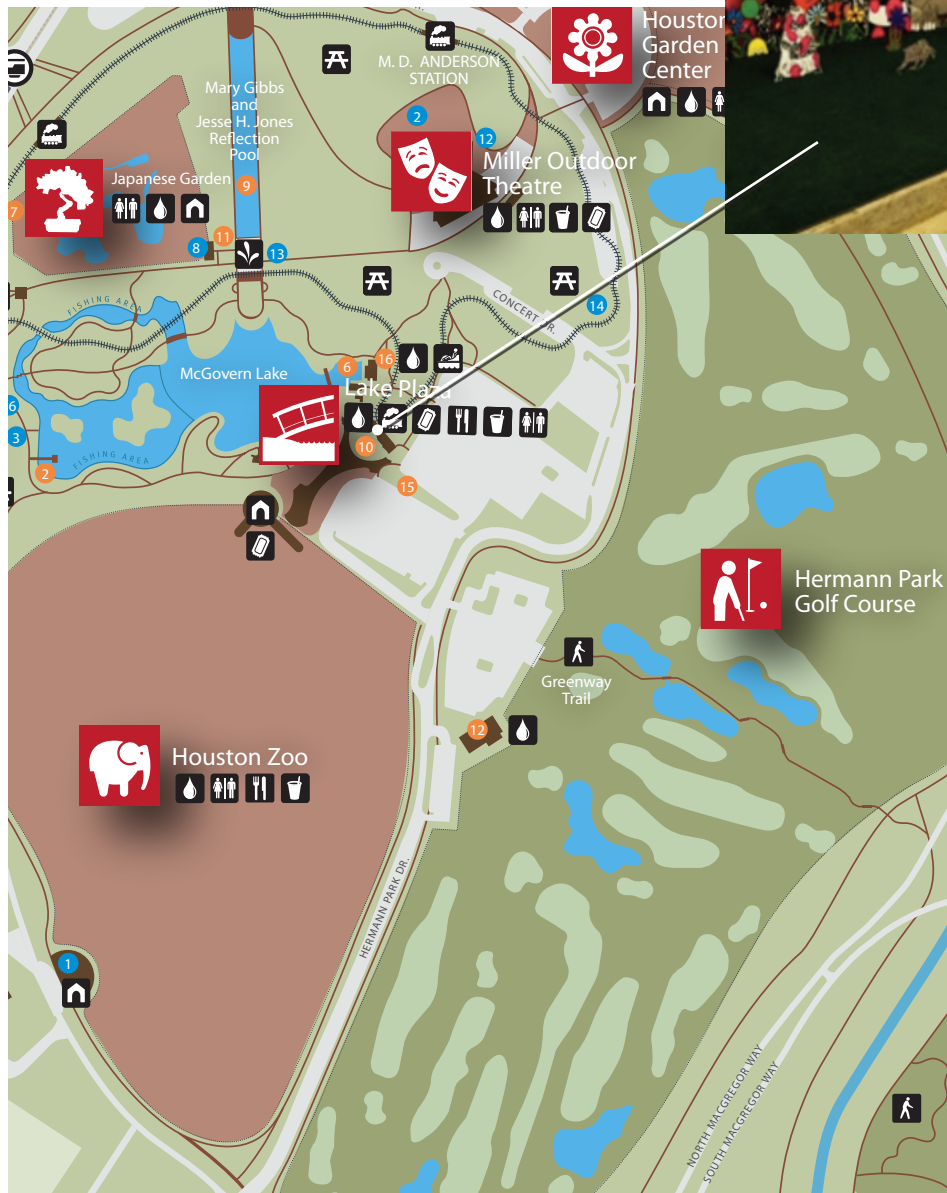
Step 2:

Now, take some brightly colored yarn and wrap that object. To help yarn stay make knots and rows of yarn on top of each other similarly to how Orly Genger did. Stop when you feel it is finished. Now watch people smile when they discover your artwork.

Last stop is back in the heart of the Park by Lake Plaza (20 minute walk) from your current location heading northwest back past the golf course and zoo to Kinder Station to catch the train! Here students can take the train to see the final art installation inside of the Hermann Park Train Tunnel.

NOTE: cost per student to ride train is \$3.25

Last Stop:
Trenton Doyle Hancock
Destination Mound Town
Permanent Installation



LESSON SIX

Creating your own world!

Houston-based artist, Trenton Doyle Hancock, has a very active and playful imagination. He created everything you see inside of the train tunnel. It is a very different world than what is outside in the Park but if you look closely you will also see characters that are inspired by real animals, trees, and you might even catch a glimpse of yourself in one of the mirrors. Trenton Doyle Hancock is telling you a story about fantasy and an alternative, playful reality that he created for all of the train riders.

LOOK:

Remember you will be seeing the artwork while sitting on the train so make sure to be alert and look all around.

DESCRIBE:

Does the artist's style of painting remind you of anything?

How did it feel entering the tunnel? What character or characters stick out in your memory?

THINK:

Trenton Doyle Hancock was inspired by things he sees everyday at the Park and zoo when designing the tunnel.

Would you add anything else to the scene if you could? What story do you think he is trying to tell you with his art?

CONNECT:

Make up your own title for this artwork.

Trenton Doyle Hancock *Destination Mound Town*



Art Exploration Time:

Draw your own coloring book

What you'll need: white paper, pencil & black crayon

Approximate Time: 30–45 minutes



When Trenton Doyle Hancock was just beginning to draw his idea for the tunnel, his drawings looked more like a coloring book. It wasn't until later that he added color and sculptures.

Step 1:

Use inspiration from your home to draw a fun scene you can turn into a coloring book. Use the objects around your house to turn into characters in your coloring book fantasy world. Remember to tell a story and leave space to fill with color.

Step 2:

Once you have drawn your coloring book page, fill it with color. Taking inspiration from the train tunnel at the Park, you can also make a couple of characters stand up and out from the scene.

THE END!

Congratulations, you are an official Hermann Park Art Explorer!

Thank you for visiting
Art in the Park!

We hope you will come back many times this year as most of the artwork on the tour is only here for the duration for 2014. Luckily the train tunnel is here to stay!

To learn more about the Park or to join the Hermann Park mailing list to find out about upcoming events at the Park, please visit:

hermannpark.org
[facebook.com/HermannPark](https://www.facebook.com/HermannPark)

or call:
713-524-5876

