

Toddler Thursdays



Become a Nature Detective!

Have you ever looked through binoculars? Binoculars are a tool for your eyes to see things that are far away. Today we're going to make our own binoculars!

First, check out this incredible oil painting by the artist Jan van Kessel. He painted this on metal almost four hundred years ago! He delicately painted all of these creatures by looking closely at the world around him. What insects do you see? How many can you count? How many flowers do you see?

Before the artist could paint his insects and flowers, he had to look very closely at nature. One way to do that is through binoculars! Do you have two empty rolls of toilet paper? Glue the two cardboard rolls together

using Elmer's glue. Let the glue dry completely. Then, paint or draw your own personal design all over the binoculars so everyone knows they are yours! You could perhaps paint your favorite animal or insect or maybe even your favorite type of food. After your binoculars are finished drying, it's time to put them to use!

Look out a window or go outside and use your new binoculars to view the world around you. Focus in on one thing—perhaps an insect like Jan van Kessel did! Then, use a piece of paper and pencil to draw what you see. You could then turn your drawing into a painting, possibly painting it on a piece of metal, if you have one!

Share your binoculars and works of art on Instagram with #HighMuseumatHome.