Discuss your observations with your group or join the museum staff and others for a facilitated conversation in the multipurpose room at 2:00 pm.

Did you see or notice the same things? Which painting was most significant to you? Why?



Slow Down. Reflect. Discover. Engage.

About William H. Johnson

William H. Johnson was born on March 18, 1901 in Florence, SC. Johnson's paintings tell stories of everyday life. His later works use bold lines, shapes and color, depicting the lives of African Americans during the 1930s and 1940s.

About Slow Art Day

Founded in 2010, Slow Art Day is a global event (more than 1,500 museums and galleries have participated) with a simple mission: help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art.



INSTRUCTIONS

Visit the Focus Gallery, located on the 2nd floor of the museum and view the works of William H. Johnson. Silently, spend 5-10 minutes looking at the suggested paintings and prompts to guide your observations.

Consider, where did your eye go first and why?

What colors do you see? Choose a descriptive adjective for each color.

What does the surface look like?

What medium and/or technique do you think was used?

How do you think the artwork was created?

What would you title this piece?

What do you wish you could ask William H. Johnson?

What else do you notice or observe?

What is the mood of the painting?

If you could only use one word to describe this piece, what would it be? Why?



William Henry Johnson Street Scene, Cagnes-sur-Mer oil on canvas c. 1928-1930

Wright Collection of Southern Art



William H. Johnson Lillestranden oil on burlap 1930-31

Collection of Wright Foundation for Southern Art



William H. Johnson Jitterbugs II serigraph on paper ca 1942

Courtesy of Amistad Research Center, New Orleans LA



William Henry Johnson Up with the Sun oil on plywood ca 1941

On loan from the family of John Frank



William Henry Johnson Evening hand-colored woodcut print on paper 1941

Courtesy of Amistad Research Center, New Orleans LA