



Awaiting Arrival: The Idea of Home

By Marium Rana, Tahlequah

www.mariumrana.com

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Summary

1. Big Idea and/or Question(s): **What imagery do you associate with home or a sense of belonging?**
2. Medium(s): **Mixed media (dry and wet/dry or wet) on paper**
3. Age Levels: **9-12, Breadth assignment for AP Studio Art**
4. Time Breakdown: **Approx. 3 hours or 3-4 class periods: Artist Introduction: 10 minutes including showing artists' work; Discussion: 15 minutes (stationary conversation and moving activity); Activity: Allow 2 hours or 3 class periods to complete works of art; Wrap-Up: written reflection to turn in with completed work.**

Materials

1. One sheet of paper (around 8.5x11in—can be printmaking paper in tan, white, or black)
One foot ruler
Assorted drawing supplies: markers, pens, colored pencils, gel pens
Painting supplies: watercolor, gouache, acrylic or tempera paint, paintbrush, palette
Decorative supplies: glitter, glue sticks, lace, decorative paper, etc.

Discussion + Activity

a. Introduction:

My name is Marium Rana. I am an American-born Pakistani artist. I was born and raised in New York. I later moved to Florida and I am now located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. I live in Tahlequah with my husband and our baby, Safiya.

Ever since I was in kindergarten, I knew I wanted to be an artist and an art teacher. I got my undergraduate degree in Visual Arts, focusing primarily in painting and drawing at Florida State University. I also have a masters in Art Education that I received at the same time. I have been professionally exhibiting my art since college, but I have been drawing

for as long as I can remember. In Tampa, Florida, I taught art for 5 years to kindergarten to 12th grade as well as AP Art History and AP Studio Art.

My work is primarily created using water-based media like gouache and watercolor as well as ink. I work on paper for its temporary nature and for its versatility with wet and dry medium. On the right kind of paper, you can use acrylic paint, gouache, watercolor, pencil, glitter, puff paint, fabric, the possibilities are seemingly endless.

b. **Big Idea and Essential Questions:**

Finding Home. Recalling Home. Reclaiming Home. Imagining Home.

Based on where we are in life, as people, we feel a sense of belonging. We are interested in connection. Certain life experiences are linked to our sense of comfort and our sense of nostalgia, or longing. For me, these experiences are reflected in objects I have painted in my work *Awaiting Arrival*. Some of these objects were literally in my life or exist in my work as metaphors, i.e., the lighthouse in the first hanging stroll of the three, is a monument of Long Island and my experience visiting the beach as a child.

What images and memories can you depict to share your idea of home or a sense of belonging? (i.e., A big church by your home might be a comforting sight after a long road trip. You could draw that church)

c. **How My Spotlight Project Connects:**

In my work, *Awaiting Arrival*, I explore the idea of home through the depiction of places I have lived in or places that are connected to my sense of home. The six places that are highlighted are New York, Florida, and Oklahoma as well as Mughal Pakistan, modern Pakistan, and the future of Pakistan. My parents are both Pakistani, so I have visited and spent time overseas for long periods of time visiting family and learning art practices. I was born in New York, I lived in Florida, and I currently live in Oklahoma.

In a more metaphorical way, I depict home through the things I remember seeing or owning during these times that connect to the memory. My New York memories are my oldest being of my childhood, and my Oklahoma memories are my most recent depicting shared memories I have with my daughter in what will be reflected as her childhood.

For periods of time I have not experienced personally, like Ancient Mughal Pakistan and the future of Pakistan, I approach these concepts with an optimism I personally would like to have for the future and I think of the art practices I have learned from the Mughal art style and my painting instructor in Pakistan.

d. **Assign an Activity to Investigate the Idea/Question:**

Use your 8.5x11 in. sheet of paper or colored printmaking paper to do a visual map of your idea of home. A visual map would not be directions necessarily, but some images that depict home for you or a sense of belonging. For example, in Tahlequah, I could have a stop sign in Cherokee and English (as they exist here), I could draw my living room rug, and I could draw my Nintendo64 remote control, as they are all important things that are symbolic of what make home, home for me.

First, decide which images you would like to depict on your sheet of paper. Draw those images in with pencil. Consider which images you would like to draw more attention to by using **scale** (making objects larger or smaller based on importance or how vividly you remember them). Another factor to consider is the use of **color**. If you would like to draw attention to a certain image, you can make it multicolored near a monochromatic or grayscale image. Consider **composition**, which is the arrangement of images to create visual harmony or disharmony based on your desired effect. Overlap as if you were creating a collage, do not be limited by the idea of a flat picture plane (ie: a sky, grass, a house, one flower, and the sun...dig deep!).

Once you have chosen your images, think about why those images are important to you. Once your work is completed on the back of your paper, in pencil, write a paragraph that explains what you have shown (which town, countries, locations). In this paragraph address a few of the images that you have chosen. Let this serve as an explanation if you are not present, but remember to let your work mostly speak for itself. :) Do not feel limited by your lived experience. If you would like to imagine a future, then that is an interesting place to show in your work.

e. **Wrap-Up:**

Discussion:

Looking around at what your classmates have created, what have you learned about theme from their idea of home? What places or objects do you associate with home or a place of belonging? Can you think of a moment when you did not belong? How can you make others feel like they belong? Why are these memories, you've drawn, memories that have stuck with you?