ART AND THE FIVE SENSES

Childe Hassam, *Giant Magnolias*, 1904
Oil on canvas. Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Original Purchase Fund from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, ARCA, and Anne Cannon Forsyth, 1967.2.2

Maurice Prendergast, *The Bathing Cove*, ca. 1916-18
Oil on canvas. Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Gift of Barbara Babcock Millhouse, 1982.2.1

EXPLORE REYNOLDA
WHAT YOU NEED
- items you can find in your home or outside
- Childe Hassam’s Giant Magnolias and Maurice Prendergast’s The Bathing Cove on this card or on your computer screen. To learn more about each artwork, visit www.reynoldahouse.org or click the links above.

AGES 2 and up

DISCOVERY ACTIVITY
Start by looking together at either Giant Magnolias or The Bathing Cove and discuss the following questions:
» What do you see in this image? Name the different elements; for older kids and adults, use adjectives to describe what you see (for example: “a shiny, blue and white vase”)
» What do you think happened before the moment in this painting? What do you think will happen next or later?

Then, consider the four other senses besides sight for each artwork:
» what would you feel if you could touch the different items or elements in this painting?
» what would you smell if you were in this painting?
» what might you taste if you were in the painting? (or, if you do this exercise with other paintings, is there anything in this painting that you might eat? What would it taste like?)
» what would you hear if you were inside the painting? Perhaps it would be a sound you would hear at this moment, or before or after the moment in the painting.

SENSORY ACTIVITY
Looking at one artwork at a time, collect items in your home or outside that would:
» have the same feel as an item or texture painted by the artist (For example, Childe Hassam painted a hard, ceramic vase with a shiny finish. Maybe you have a vase, or maybe there’s a glass or tile that would feel the way you imagine the vase would feel.)
» have the same look as an item or texture or area of paint (maybe it has the same color or shape)
» have the same smell as an item or element of the painting
» have the same taste as an item or element of the painting (You might have to use your imagination a little bit: what might the air taste like? If you were in Maurice Prendergast’s painting, would you be eating anything?)
» sound like something in the painting or be a sound that you might hear if you were in the painting (For example, can you make or create a noise that might sound like a magnolia leaf falling to the table?)