Throughout time, artists and scientists have connected with nature. Artists find inspiration for their creative practice in nature, while scientists study our natural surroundings. The resulting art works and understanding of our world show us both the beauty of nature and remind us to care for our natural spaces, especially in a changing climate.

Two Framingham organizations partnered to create this art + nature experience for you. The Danforth Art Museum and Native Plant Trust’s Garden in the Woods invite you to explore our pairings of art and nature.

**Close Looking:** Look closely. What do you see?

**At Danforth Art Museum:**

*Boy in Garden*
by Mitchell Siporin

Welcome to Danforth Art Museum! Notice 5 things in this boy’s garden. Look for little things too, like textures and shapes. Imagine joining the boy in the garden. What do you hear, smell, and feel?

**At Garden in the Woods:**

*Arrival at the Lily Pond*

Welcome to Garden in the Woods! As you explore our garden, remember to pause and notice what’s around you. When you arrive at our Lily Pond, what is different? What do you see and hear?

**Color:** Nature and artists use color. What colors do you see?

**At Danforth Art Museum:**

*Lighter Than Air* by Judith Ellen Sanders

What colors do you see in the grass along the bottom of the painting? Name the colors you see floating above the grass. How do the colors in this painting make you feel?

**At Garden in the Woods:**

*Meadow*

Our meadow changes quickly throughout the summer, hosting a cascade of greens, yellows, purples, whites, magentas, browns - can you find all of these colors in the meadow?
Artists recreate the layers of a natural space by including a foreground (closest to you), middle ground, and a background.

What do you see in the foreground of this painting? What items from nature does the artist include in this landscape painting?

At Danforth Art Museum: *Near North Conway, New Hampshire* by Albert Bierstadt

At Garden in the Woods: *Lookout*

Landscapes have many layers. Different locations along the trail offer new ways of seeing what is already there. Near the very end of our gravel trail is this lookout. Try looking at the background first, then the foreground: what do you see from here that you could not see in the meadow?

Once you’re done, take some time to reflect on this experience. In the space below, write a poem or short story about nature. Or draw a picture of a flower, rock, leaf, or branch.

This exercise represents a new collaboration between two Framingham organizations: one, a plant conservation organization, the other an art museum. Garden in the Woods and Danforth Art Museum are a quick 10 minutes from one another, and we hope whichever location you are reading this from, you visit us at the other! Don’t forget to tag your visit with #danforthartmuseum #gardeninthewoods #danforthartframingham #nativeplanttrust #framinghammalocal #metrowestma

Please reach out and tell us what you think!

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