



## AMANDA RHODENIZER

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

List five familiar objects that you see in this painting:

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What is your eye drawn to first and what makes it stand out to you?  
(hint: it might be the first word on your list above!)

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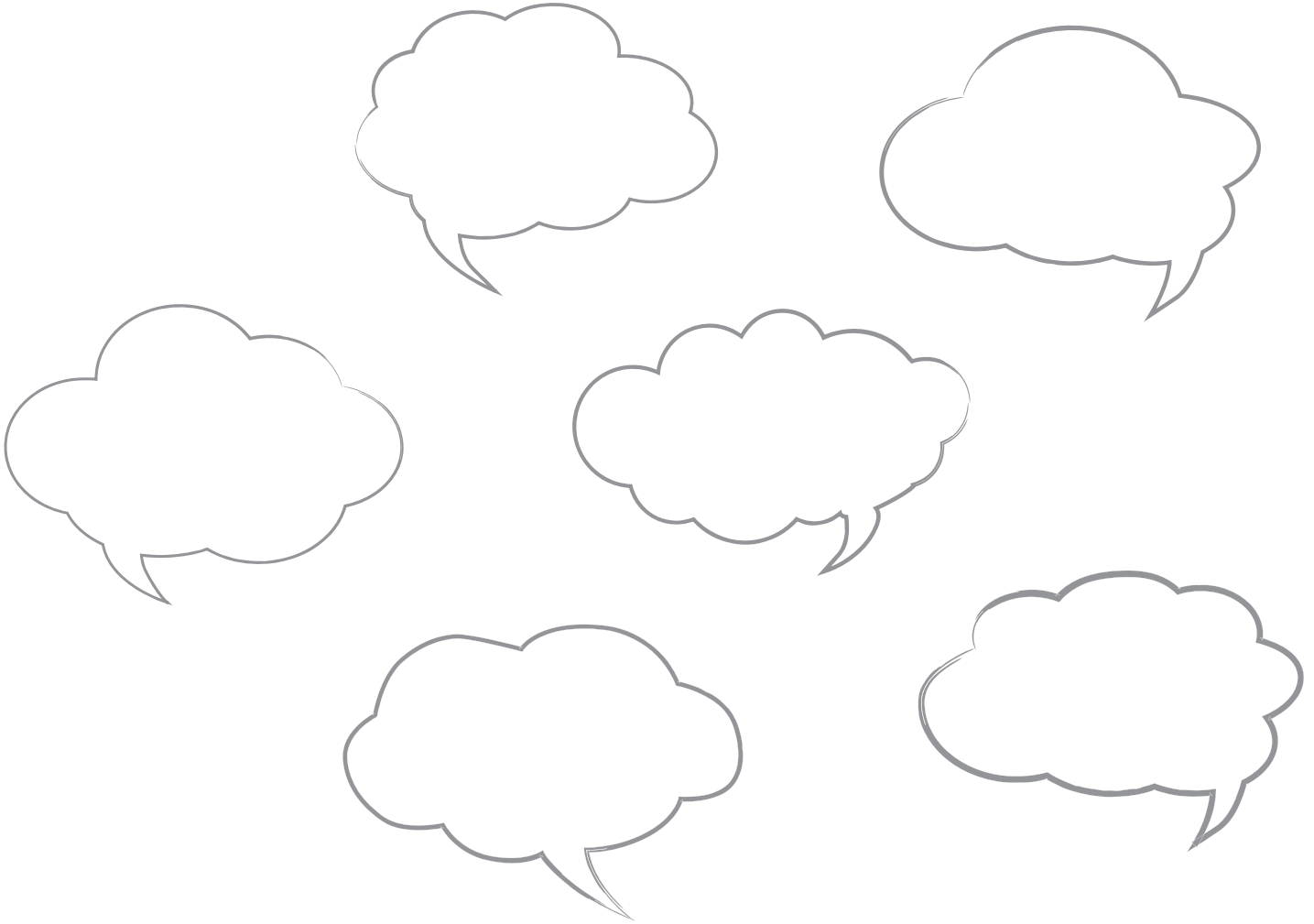
## LOOKING CLOSER

Study this scene. Who do you think uses this room? What activities do you think happen here? In the space below, make a sketch of what this room might look like at a different time of day.



# LOOKING INWARD

Think of a room in your home that you like to spend time in. What makes this space comfortable to you? Use the thought bubbles to record words you would use to describe this room. Write 4-5 sentences about the room using these words.



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# GET CREATIVE

Amanda Rhodenizer's painting, *Casual Frontier*, depicts both an interior space (the living room) and an exterior space (seen through the window). Think about the spaces in your own home and what you can see from inside for this mixed media project.



## MATERIALS

- **A piece of paper for the background** (white or coloured paper will work)
- **A few smaller pieces of scrap paper**
- **A variety of coloured drawing tools** (pencil crayons, markers, crayons, whatever you have on hand!)
- **A pencil and eraser**
- **Scissors and glue**
- **Magazines** (optional)

## PREPARATION

- Think of a room in your home that you like to spend time in and what objects are in that space. What can you see through the window in that space?

## PROCESS

**1)** Think of the window(s) in your chosen room. You can draw your own window on a piece of scrap paper or print and cut out one of the window templates provided. Use a pencil to make a simple sketch of what you can see outside onto your window and use markers, pencils or crayons to add colour. When your window is complete, cut it out and set it aside somewhere safe.



**2)** Now let's think about your interior space. What colours are the walls? Is there a border or design on them? Colour your wall and then glue your window into place.

# GET CREATIVE



**3)** Time to focus on the smaller details of this room. What type of furniture is in it? Are there any other objects in it such as curtains, pictures, or personal belongings that make it unique? Sketch out these items on scrap paper and personalize them by adding colour and outlining in marker if you wish. Alternatively, you can cut images out of magazines. Feel free to add as many or as few details as you'd like!



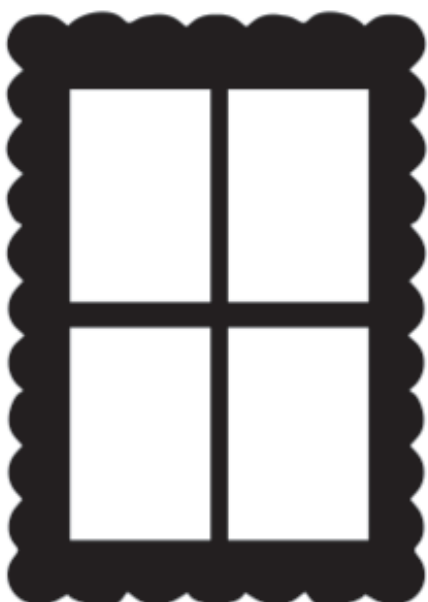
**4)** Once you have all of your room pieces complete, experiment with layering them in your composition. Objects layered on top will look closer while objects layered behind will look farther away. Try a couple of different arrangements!



**5)** When you are happy with your room, glue the pieces into place.

**SHARE**

Share your creation with us on social media using [@kwartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/kwartgallery) and [#KWAGInFocus](https://twitter.com/KWAGInFocus)





# LEARN

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Amanda Rhodenizer currently lives and works in Waterloo, Ontario. She earned a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2006, and an MFA from the University of Waterloo in 2014. *Casual Frontier* is the titular artwork of a larger series in which Rhodenizer explores the unique relationship between guest and host in shared living environments such as AirBnB rentals. Her paintings often include thresholds—the divide between interior and exterior or between adjoining rooms—symbolizing the distance that separates her subjects. Whether depicting figures or vacant spaces, Rhodenizer’s paintings are unified by the partial narratives they present, leaving viewers curious about what may have happened before or after each moment.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

In your classroom or a small group, consider the questions below to generate conversation. Try having your students take a minute to think about the questions and share their ideas with a partner to help them articulate their ideas before discussing the topics as a whole group.

- What do you think is the focal point of this painting and what visual cues differentiate it from the rest of the painting? If there is more than one focal point suggested, how do our eyes move between them?
- Considering the painting as a moment in time, discuss what may have happened before or after this moment. What clues are given in the painting?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### At Home:

Ask students to take a photograph of a room in their home as it is (no staging or cleaning up beforehand!). They should spend some time examining the photograph and noticing all the details. Using visual clues from the photograph, have them write down either in point form or in short paragraphs what may have happened in the room before the photograph was taken.

## ART TERMS

### COMPOSITION

The arrangement of objects or figures within a space; or the artist’s decision to capture a specific spatial arrangement.

### FOCAL POINT

A focal point is a part of the composition that the eye is naturally drawn to. Paintings can have multiple focal points or none at all.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Social Studies, analysis and critical thinking, Language - Creative Writing, Mathematics

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Artist Website: <https://www.arhodenizer.com/#1>

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery - Recent Acquisition: Casual Frontier. <https://kwag.ca/content/recent-acquisitions>

Aggerholm, Barbara. “Imagery that makes you wonder” *The Record.com*. 22 Oct 2018.

<https://www.therecord.com/whatson-story/8980380-imagery-that-makes-you-wonder/>

Video of Artist. *Ontario Heritage Trust*. August 2017.

<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/en/index.php/myontario/stories/amanda-rhodenizer>