

## LIFE RIGHT NOW: COMMUNITY PAINTING



*This Town is Open* by Faye and Ali Daniels  
“This town is open, there is no sickness, we can all play together.”

Humans are social beings, and everyone is affected by their surroundings and social conditions.

Richard Marquis transformed his feelings and opinions around the Vietnam War and social injustices of the 1960s into artwork he could share with the world. Let us explore some ways we can express our feelings through artwork.

### MATERIALS:

Large canvas or paper

Paint, markers, crayons or colored pencils

Brushes, palette knives, sponges, cloth, etc.

### LEARNING STANDARDS:

**Visual Arts 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Think about what’s happening in your life right now— are you affected by COVID-19 restrictions? Do you miss your friends and family? Are you doing things a little differently these days? What makes you happy and proud, and what makes you sad or disappointed? What do you wish for the future?
2. Draw/paint out some images and thoughts onto your canvas. Remember, you can mix figurative and abstract imagery and lines to express your feelings. There are no right or wrong shapes, figures, signs, or marks. Use color to express feelings and ideas. Don’t be afraid to layer imagery and marks.
3. Continue to add to your painting until it feels complete.
4. Share your artwork with someone. Tell them all about what you put down on your canvas and the meanings behind your images.
5. Email a photo of your completed painting to:  
[juniorcurator@museumofglass.org](mailto:juniorcurator@museumofglass.org)

**Note:** This project can be done as a collaborative painting with two to three people to add extra interest in ideas and depth of images and meaning.