

## **Create a Viewfinder**

### **Supplies:**

Lightweight cardboard 6 x 6 inch square  
Ruler  
Pencil  
Scissors  
Two paperclips  
Drawing paper  
Paintbrush  
Watercolors  
Jar of water  
Rag or paper towel

### **Make a viewfinder:**

1. With your pencil and ruler, draw two L-shapes along the edges of your cardboard. The width of your ruler is a good measurement to use.
2. Cut the L-shapes out. Now you have two halves of a frame. You won't need the small square that's left over.
3. Hold the shapes together to make a whole frame. What shapes can it become? What sizes? Experiment!
4. Use your paper clips to join the Ls together in a viewfinder shape you like.

### **Try out different views:**

Look at a book through your viewfinder. "Zoom out" by moving the view finder closer to your eye. What do you see? (Try not to pay attention to anything outside of your frame!) You probably see the whole book and part of the room around it. Now, "zoom in" by moving the viewfinder closer to the page. Do you see much more than a few words?

### **"Focus" your picture:**

1. Use your view finder to search the room. What would make an interesting picture?
2. "Zoom in"! If you move your viewfinder close enough, you'll only be able to see simple shapes, colors and patterns.

### **Make your close-up picture:**

1. Hold your viewfinder very still.
2. Pretend the viewfinder is the frame of your picture. This means you shouldn't add anything you don't see inside of it.
3. With your pencil and paper, draw the outline of everything you see inside your viewfinder. Fill your paper, and don't forget the details.
4. Use watercolors to make your picture colorful. Be sure to clean your brush with water before you dip it in a new color. (Georgia O'Keefe was famous for working with a very clean palette, or color-mixing tray. That's why the colors in her paintings are so clear.)

### **Ask a friend to give your picture a title:**

Could they recognize your close-up view?