

## Today's challenge from Sam Hale

### Wish I Was Here!



As our travel plans are somewhat on hold, I thought we might spend this week exploring a place we would like to be.

This could be a much-visited holiday destination, the home of a friend, a gallery, a place you have never visited but have always wanted to see or a place you know from a work of art.

- 1) Spend a few moments picturing your destination, maybe close your eyes.
- 2) Spend some time writing or drawing some notes about your chosen place.
- 3) Try and think about the sounds and smells. What's the weather like? Are there people or animals in your scene? Can you see yourself there?
- 4) Try to draw your place from memory or imagination.
- 5) Research your place to gather images to inform a drawing. You could use photographs or items you have at hand as stand-ins for the real thing.

If you enjoyed the "Signs and Symbols" task perhaps you could incorporate some personal imagery. (You can download "Still Lively 10 Signs and Symbols" from the gallery's website too.)

There are a number of artists who have famously created works depicting places of their imagination.

Henri Rousseau painted *Tiger in a Tropical Storm* (1891) without ever leaving Paris. His tropical plants are inspired by house plants.

Click on this link for more information about the artist: <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/henri-rousseau-jungles-paris>

Medieval artists created works portraying animals which had only been described to them. In medieval bestiaries we see elephants with human ears and trunks shaped like trumpets; sometimes they resemble pigs with trunks and are large enough to carry a castle on their backs.

Click here to learn more about these early artworks: <https://www.bl.uk/medieval-english-french-manuscripts/articles/beastly-tales-from-the-medieval-bestiar>

In the 1860s, Birmingham artist Henry Stanier painted *An Eastern Scene*. Do you think Stanier worked from life? Can you add yourself to the scene?



*An Eastern Scene*

Henry Stanier

Watercolour

c. 1860 - 70

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums

Please click on this link for more details about Still Lively: <https://www.creativehealthcic.co.uk/older-people/>