

INSIDE | OUT 2026 FAMILY GUIDE

We are lucky to have six artworks from the DIA's collection on view in Northville!
Use this guide to explore the paintings and make fun memories along the way.



Jean-Léon Gérôme, *Solitude*, 1890

As you look at this painting, what words would you use to describe this scene?

We see a lion, all alone, resting on the beach. Notice that, just like a giant cat, he is stretched out in the sun—just beyond the reach of the shadow of a tree. But where is that tree? We can use our imagination to picture it just beyond the frame. Speaking of shadows, look around you—are you casting any shadows today?

As you explore the painting, notice how the sea and sky combine into a field of blue.

Give names to the different shades of blue that you see the artist using in this painting.

Imagine that you're the lion, ready to leave this peaceful beach. Give a big stretch and quiet roar before you move on to the next artwork.

1 Northville Community Center
303 W Main St
Solitude, Jean-Leon Gerome

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Wedding Dance*, 1566

This painting illustrates a party to celebrate a wedding. **Which figure do you think is the bride?** Believe it or not, she is the woman in a black dress near the center of the painting. Brides did not start wearing white dresses until the 1840s, almost 300 years after this painting was made.

Imagine that you're stepping over the frame and into the world of this painting. Take a good look around and think about what you would experience with your five senses.

What do you see?

What would you hear?

What would you smell?

What could you taste?

What could you touch?

Would you like to be a part of this wedding celebration? Why—or why not?



2 Lucy & the Wolf
102 E Main St
The Wedding Dance, Pieter Bruegel



Winslow Homer, *Girl and Laurel* 1879

If this young girl could speak, what do you think she would say to you? What is she thinking about while she poses for this portrait?

During the 1870s, Winslow Homer was most interested in painting peaceful scenes of rural life—farmers at work, children at play, young couples in love. He wanted to remember “the good old days,” when life was simple.

This painting was completed in 1879, right around the time that many of the buildings here in Mill Race Village were completed. Take a few minutes to cross the bridge and explore Mill Race. Which building do you think the girl might call home?

3 Mill Race Historical Village
215 Griswold St
Girl and Laurel, Winslow Homer

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4 River Park Overlook
River St near Johnson Ave
On the Nile, Sanford Robinson Gifford

Sanford Robinson Gifford, *On the Nile, 1872*

If you could travel anywhere in the world to find inspiration for an artwork, where would you want to go? Why? What would you create?

That's just what this artist did throughout his career. In 1869, Sanford Robinson Gifford traveled to Egypt, where he rode on a boat up and down the Nile River. He made small sketches of the scenery on notecards, and then turned those sketches first into small oil paintings, and finally into the larger oil paintings we see today.

If you were going to create a painting of Northville's River Park, what elements would you include? Take a picture, or create a quick sketch of your own, so that you remember your time here today.

Mary Cassatt, *In the Garden, 1903 or 1904*

Imagine that this painting is the center scene of a comic strip. What happened right before this? What do you think will happen next? What do you see that makes you say that?

Mary Cassatt is an American artist who lived and worked in Paris, France. She found fame and success as a painter at a time when many women could not. She is best known for her paintings that show mothers and children in everyday scenes, such as reading a story at bedtime or enjoying time together in the garden.

What are some of your favorite ways to spend time together as a family?



5 River Park Log Cabin
Corner of River St. and 7 Mile
In the Garden, Mary Cassatt



6 American Legion Northville
100 W Dunlap St
Still Life: A Letter Rack, Edwart Collyer

Edwart Collyer, *Still Life: A Letter Rack, 1692*

Make a list of the items that you see in this still life.

You might feel like you can reach out and remove each item from the rack. That's because this artist used a special painting technique called trompe l'oeil (pronounced "tromp loy"), which means "to fool the eye." Edwart Collyer is so good at painting objects and textures, that he tricks us into thinking we're looking at the actual items!

Perhaps all of these items are gathered together on this rack because they were special to the artist. **Do you have a collection of items that are special to you? How do you display them or keep them safe? If you were going to paint a still life of your most prized possessions, what items would you include?**

This family guide was created as a collaboration between the Northville Art House and the Northville DDA.



DOWNTOWN
Northville
Timeless with a twist