

Gathering Glowing Shadows

Halation is the spreading of light beyond its proper boundaries that forms a glow around the edges of an object. To see halation in action, check out [this blog post](#) that explains how this unique effect works.

Another place we can observe halation is in the work of our very own artist Wayne Thiebaud, particularly in how he renders the edges of objects. You can learn more about halation and his work in this [essay](#) by our Founding Director, Rachel Teagle.

In this week's activity, we are challenging you to get creative with the light and shadow you can find in your surroundings.

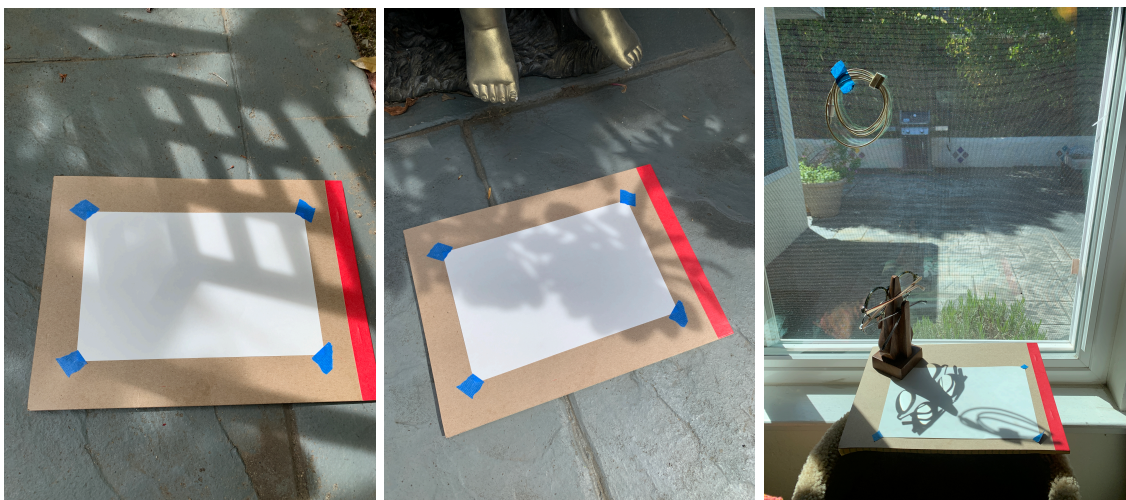


Things you will need:

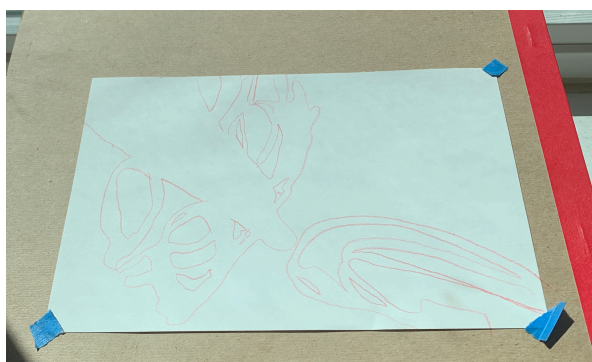
- Coloring materials (pencils or crayons work best)
- Paper
- A hard work surface (like a clipboard or a book)
- Tape (optional but is helpful)

Make it!

- 1) To start, tape your paper to your hard surface so it is easy to move around. Then choose two colors that are similar (like red and orange, or blue and green) to use for your drawing.
- 2) Take a walk around your house or outside (while social distancing) and notice the interesting shadows that occur naturally around you. If you can't find a shadow you like, make one by arranging a few objects. Once you have your shadow, place the paper down so the shadow falls on it.



- 3) Using the shadow as your guide, trace the outline using one of the colors you have chosen. Once you have fully traced your shadow you can move your paper to your work station.



- 4) Now use one color to represent the shadow you traced and the other to fill in the light areas. Once you have filled in those areas, use the same color you used to fill in the shadows and lightly add it to the edges of the “light” areas. Do the same now using the “light” color to highlight the edges of the “shadow” color.



You should start to notice your drawing glowing just by using these two colors!

Questions to experiment with:

- What would happen if you used contrasting colors instead of similar ones? Like red and green or orange and blue?
- How would your drawing look if you use a mixture of various colors?
- Could you try and achieve a similar effect by just using black and white?
- Can you use other artmaking tools to play with halation?

To share your artwork, post to Instagram or Facebook and tag #manettishremmuseum or email your work to manettishremmuseum@ucdavis.edu.