



MUSEUM FROM HOME

Edition 4 | April 13, 2020

'Cow'operation!



Susan Catherine Moore Waters, *Landscape with Cows*, after 1870, oil on canvas, 36 x 52 in. Museum Purchase. 2020.3

Look!

What animals do you see? Are there any people in the painting?

The cows all seem to be walking in the same direction. Where might they be going?

Do the cows look like they belong in this setting? Why or why not?

Learn!

Wow, this farmer is trying to get his herd across a rocky landscape with the shepherd dog helping to keep the cows from wandering off the steep slopes to get a drink of water. Yikes, it looks pretty hairy getting them down to the pond.

This type of painting is called a *landscape*. A landscape is a picture of an area of land and includes natural scenery such as trees, water, mountains, people and buildings. This painting has many of those details.

Did you know that a woman created this painting over 150 years ago? There have been many talented female artists throughout history, but we often have not heard about them.

Artist Susan Waters loved art and animals, and painted them from life. She even had her own pen of sheep that she would use as studies for her artwork. She began painting at a very young age and taught herself. Early in her art career, she painted portraits (pictures of a person, people or even animals). Eventually she turned her attention to landscape paintings featuring the animals she loved. No one knows how she was able to paint so well without any formal drawing and painting lessons. The longer she painted the better her artwork became. Practice makes perfect!

Susan Waters became so well known for her animal landscapes that in 1876, when she was 53 years old, she received an invitation to show some of her paintings at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia! It was the first official World's Fair to be held in the United States and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

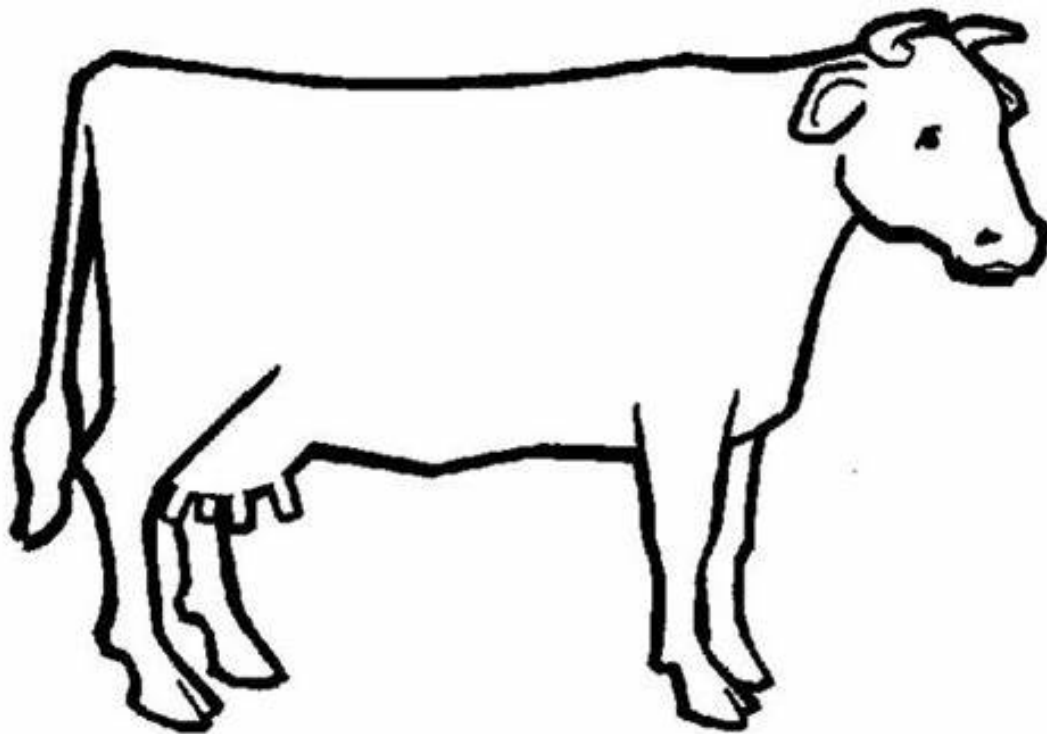
Waters was not only a good artist; she also became the *income earner* (someone who works to earn money) for her family. This was a remarkable trait for a married woman living over a hundred years ago because that was not the traditional role of women at that time. Her success was remarkable and she carved a place of her own in art history during a time when men dominated the art world.

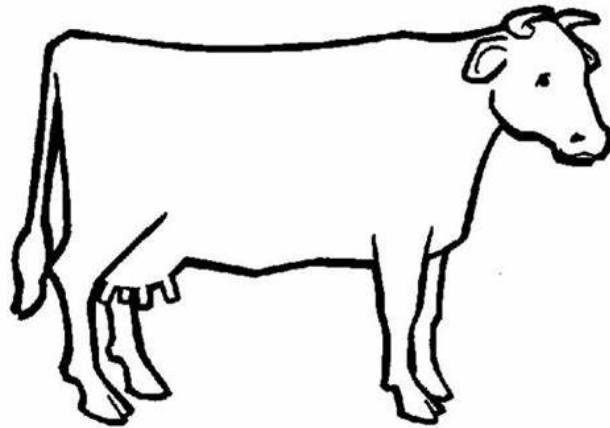
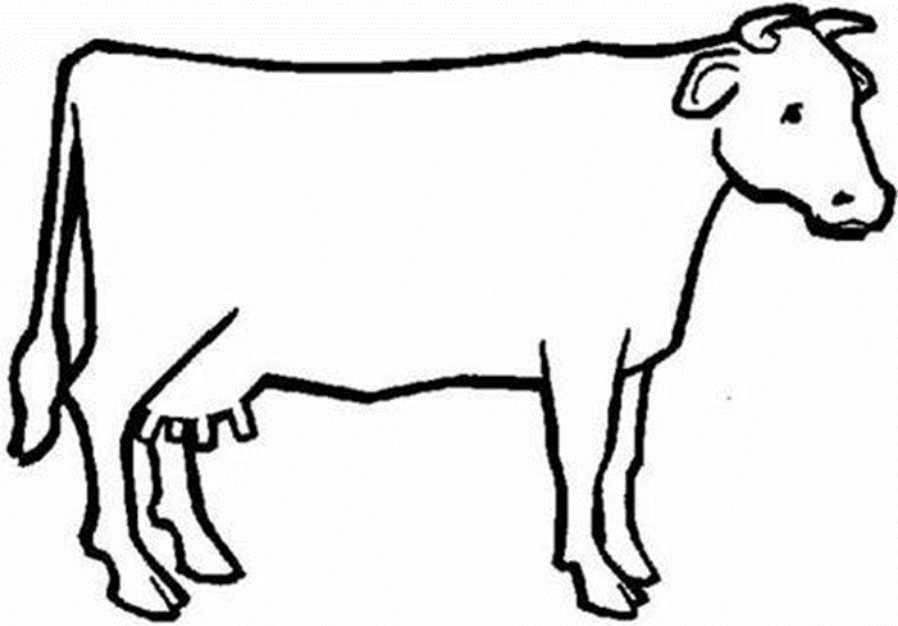
[Elizabeth Remington](#) is another woman artist from The Rockwell's collection who was also featured in the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her painting, *Two Kings: Corn and Cotton* can be found in the Museum's *Visions of America Gallery* and online in our eMuseum.

Do!

Landscape Animal Perspective Drawing- Draw a Herd of Cattle like Waters!

- Cut out the cow templates. Or, if you don't have a printer at home, draw your own cows.
- Use the animal tracing templates to trace the cows onto a piece of light colored paper.
- Draw it again and again, smaller and larger.
- Add in details, such as trees, hills, flowers, people or other animals the way Susan Waters did in her animal landscape.
- Use crayons, colored pencils or paint to add color to your picture.
- Hint: The farther away the cow, the smaller it should appear in the picture. Look out the window at the trees. Do you notice that the trees in the distance look smaller than the ones closest to you? This is called perspective in drawing.





Sensory Writing Fun!

Use your senses and imagination and create a story using your drawing, Waters' *Landscape with Cows* or select any landscape from our [eMuseum digital collection](#).

While you imagine your story, think about...

What you would ...

- Hear?
- Smell?
- Feel?
- What clothing would you be wearing? Is it warm or cold?
- What or who would you like to have with you?
- Where would you be in the picture?

What happens next?



After your story:

Share: When you finish your story, share it with your family members.

Compare: Share the image with a friend or pick an artwork from the [eMuseum digital collection](#). Ask a friend to write a story about it. Then share it online with each other to compare the stories you each created.

Act it Out: Enlist family members to act out your story. Use fun props from around the house to add dramatic elements to your play acting.

Ready for Prime Time: Make a video clip. Ask a family member to record you and other family members acting out your story.

The sky's the limit! Have fun!

