

THE CLARK

CONNECTS

DRAWING DISCOVERIES

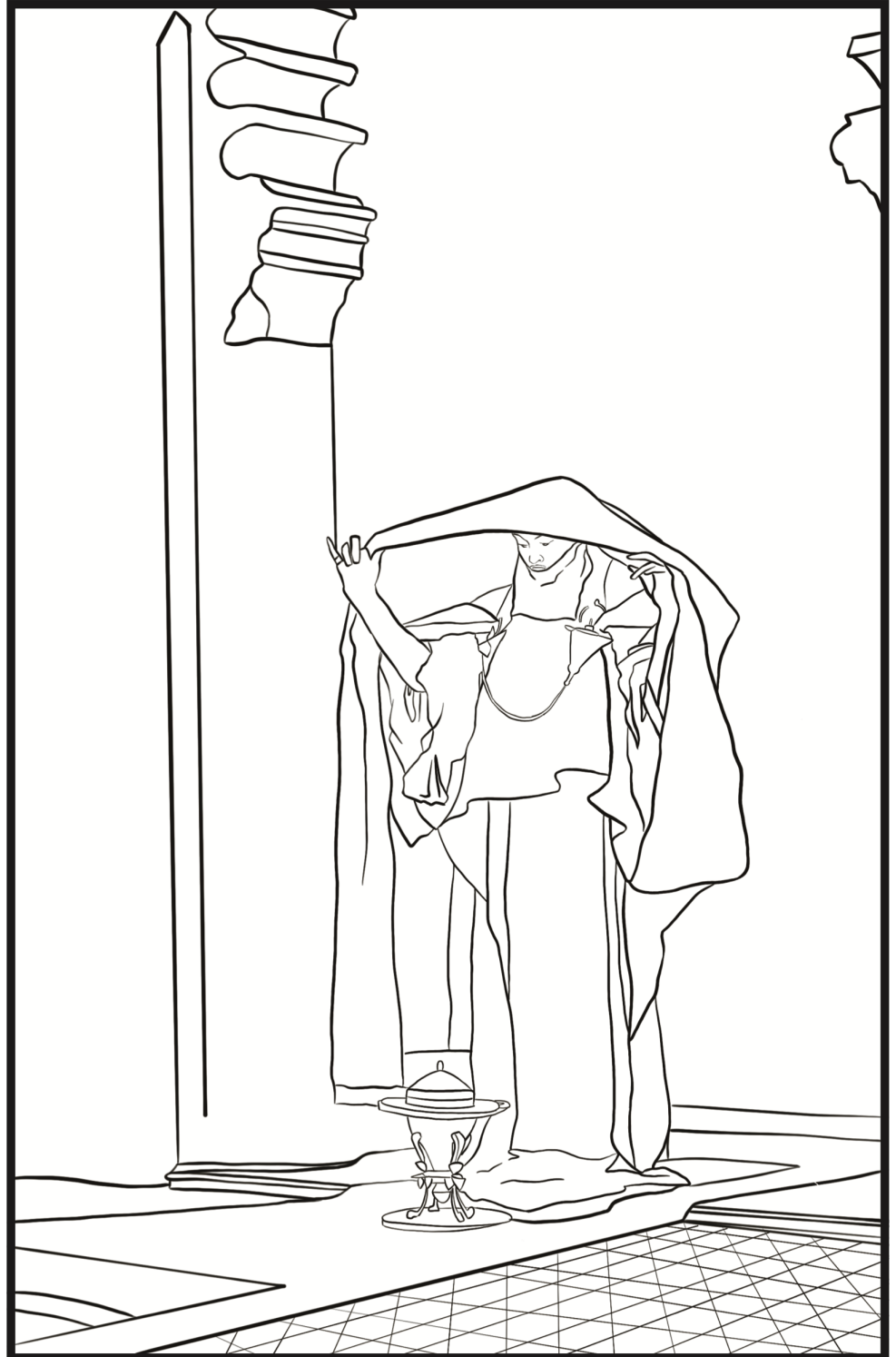
PLAYING WITH COLOR



John Singer Sargent, *Fumée d'ambre gris* (*Smoke of Ambergris*), 1880. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1914. 1955.15.

John Singer Sargent made *Fumée d'ambre gris* (*Smoke of Ambergris*) after traveling to North Africa in 1879. The painting combines details inspired by different places and people he observed, so though Western audiences interpreted the resulting image as a realistic view of North Africa, it is actually a made up scene. In addition to this painting being an imaginary scene, it is also an experiment with a specific color: white. Sargent combined different colors with white paint to create many shades and tints. This allowed him to delineate shadows and highlights—even with a limited color palette!

Grab your media of choice and experiment with different colors. How does the use of color change the mood or feel of the picture? If you don't have a printer at home, try drawing your own *Fumée d'ambre gris* (*Smoke of Ambergris*) and color in your version!



ADDING TO A STORY

The French artist Odilon Redon started experimenting with color in the 1890s after many years of working exclusively in black and white. The introduction of color to Redon's paintings infused them with a new kind of energy. Similar to many of the artist's paintings from this time period, this image combines lifelike details with an imaginative, dream-like aura. In this painting, a woman leans over a vase of brightly colored flowers; her eyes are closed just enough to see and smell the blossoms. Streaks and blotches of color emerge from the abstractly painted background, raising questions about what kind of space she occupies and what kind of thoughts occupy her mind...

Take a closer look at the woman's expression in the image. What do you think she could be dreaming about? Use the thought bubble in the image below to draw what the woman may be thinking about in this moment.



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BEFORE & AFTER

Mary Cassatt was an American artist who made many paintings of Spanish culture during an extended stay in Spain in 1873. Here, a young woman holds a glass of water for an elaborately-dressed bullfighter, who dips *panal* (honeycomb) into it to produce a refreshing, energizing drink. With their intense expressions and active poses, the figures have a compelling, yet ambiguous dynamic.

Let's add some of your own creativity to this image! What might have happened 10 minutes before this moment between the young woman and the bullfighter? What about 10 minutes after? Draw your imagined scenes in the boxes on either side of the image.



Mary Cassatt, *Offering the Panal to the Bullfighter*, 1873. Oil on canvas. Acquired by Sterling and Francine Clark, 1947. 1955.1.

BEFORE

AFTER