Everyday Observations

Jacob Glushakow (1914-2000) was an American painter who spent his career documenting scenes of everyday life in Baltimore. He was born on a steamship while his family was immigrating to the United States from Germany. He was raised in East Baltimore and spent his life painting the streets, markets, row houses, and shops of Jewish life in Baltimore. Through his paintings, Glushakow showed the ways Baltimore changed over the years and proved that everyday life is an important part of history. Create your own painting, drawing, photograph, or piece of writing inspired by Glushakow’s scenes of everyday life. Your work, like Glushakow’s paintings, will be a way to document history.

What you will need:

- Paper
- Materials of choice (markers, pens, pencils, camera)

Black and white photo of Jacob Glushakow. JMM 2006.013.1285
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What to do:

• Take a few moments to look at the images of Glushakow’s paintings on the next page.

• What do you notice in the images? What kinds of activities are going on? What sounds and smells do you think the people in the paintings would be experiencing? What kinds of emotions do the people appear to have? How do Glushakow’s paintings appear different to the things you see in your own daily life? How do they look similar?

• After you’ve spent some time looking at the paintings, begin to think more about your own life and the people, places, and things you see regularly.

• Look at your surroundings and take note of what you see, feel, smell, and hear. Think about what you see in your home or around your neighborhood. You may find it helpful to write or sketch some ideas.

• After you have some ideas, try creating a drawing, painting, photograph, or piece of writing that represents your everyday life right now.

• Don’t forget to sign your name and write the date on your finished work.

Bonus Challenge: Create another piece inspired by your daily life using a different material. Try experimenting with unique
"E. Lombard Street and Central Avenue." (1939)
JMM 2010.083.002

"Pressing Machine." JMM 1989.067.001

"Ralph's Poultry." JMM 1990.066.001

"E. Lombard Street." JMM 2010.083.006