

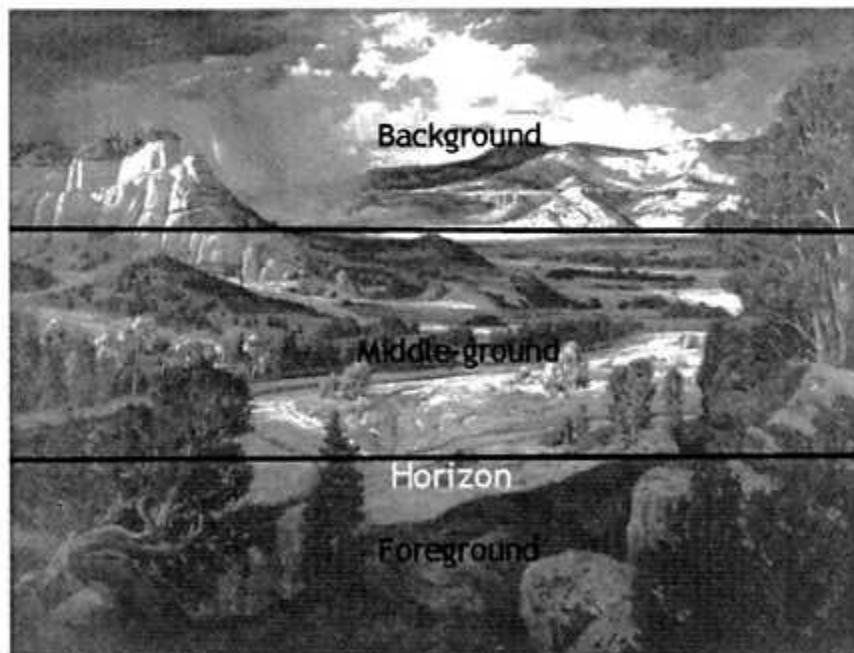
POST Museum Visit Activity #2	
Lesson:	Landscapes: Drawing with artist Fremont Ellis
Objective:	Students will learn how to look at a landscape and observe information like place, time, and weather. They will also be able to define, demonstrate, and identify landscapes and their characteristics.
Vocabulary:	<p>Landscape - refers to an outdoor scene. Most landscapes are horizontal in format</p> <p>Foreground - the front area of the landscape; the ground at the very front of a composition</p> <p>Middle-ground - the area in the middle of a picture or landscape</p> <p>Background - the area behind; example: land in the distance, or the sun on the horizon</p>
Artwork(s):	Fremont Ellis, <i>Valley of the Gods</i> On display in the Tom Lea Gallery upstairs, look for it with your group, or ask your docent about it.
Resources:	Artist Background & painting picture provided below
Discussion:	Discuss how landscapes can vary from region to region on the planet. Have students discuss and identify the characteristics in <i>Valley of the Gods</i> . Discuss what landscapes tell about the people that live there, the climate of the region, and the time period it depicts. Have students discuss and imagine how it would feel to be inside the painting, in the <i>Valley of the Gods</i> . If necessary, spell and write out vocabulary words.
Activity:	On paper, have student imagine how it would feel to be inside the painting, in the <i>Valley of the Gods</i> , then write a letter to someone living at their home in El Paso explaining what the world looks like. Remind them to be descriptive, and include colors, plants, and other things they see on the land and in the sky.
Materials:	Paper, pencils, ruler, crayons, colored pencils, or markers
Process:	After showing an example of how to draw a landscape (with background, middle ground, and foreground) have students create a pencil drawing of the landscape they described in their writing. Emphasize the division of the paper in thirds—background, middle ground and foreground. Have students work from top third of the paper down, and encourage putting objects in the sky and on the horizon. Make sure they save the detail and color

	work for the end.
Assessment:	Students will competently demonstrate an understanding of landscapes and their composition.
Closing Activity:	If there is time leftover, have students volunteer to explain their landscape to the class.

Background Information on Artist:

An award-winning artist, Fremont Ellis is famous for painting landscapes of the Southwest United States. He grew up in Montana but eventually moved to Santa Fe where he co-founded a painting group called *Los Cinco Pintores* with four other artists. Though the group tended to produce non-traditional modern works, Ellis's painting technique was heavily influenced by the American Impressionists. *Valley of the Gods* showcases this artistic style and his interest in the geography of the Southwest.

In this painting, Ellis pays close attention to light and shadow in order to highlight the physical features and vegetation in the scene. His interest in the beauty and history of the Southwest led Ellis to continue painting from his studio in Santa Fe for over fifty years. In 2003 the Museum had *Valley of the Gods* reframed. The new frame was created with insight from Ellis's daughter Bambi, to look like a frame he would have used.





FREMONT ELLIS (1897-1985)

Valley of the Gods, 1926

Oil on canvas

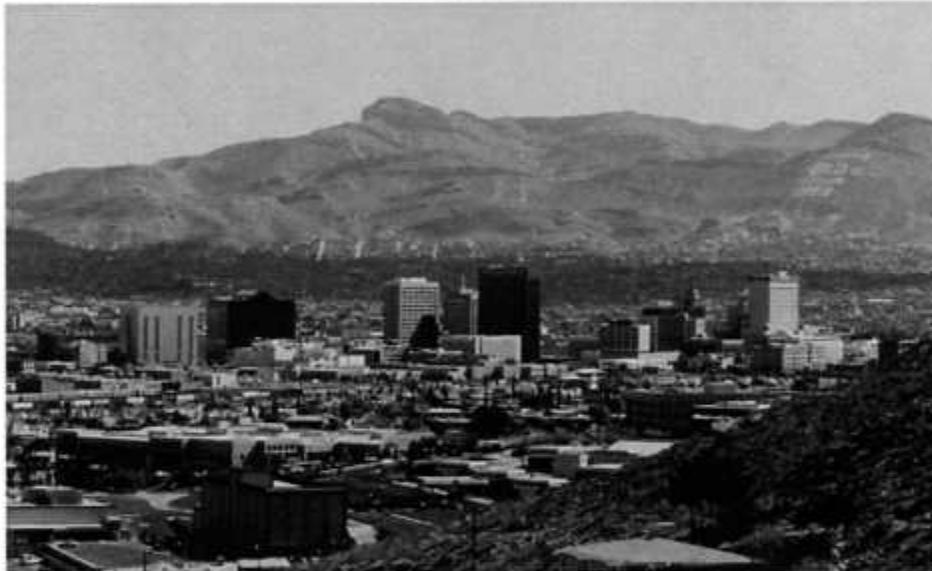
59" x 78"; 61" x 80" framed

ON DISPLAY - EPMA Collection, Gift of the Estate of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Dick

Art Museum Visit Activity

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fremont Ellis often took pictures of the places he wanted to paint. He would then look at the photograph while he painted. Does the landscape in *Valley of the Gods* remind you of a photograph? Why or why not?



This is a picture of El Paso. Do you notice things that are different in this landscape from the *Valley of the Gods*? What are they?
