INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BOX

This activity box on wheels is intended for children and families. It contains entertaining activities and tasks related to Vilho Lampi exhibition.

Attached you will find a map with the artworks mentioned in the tasks marked with different colours. You will find the materials needed for each activity in the box in a bag with a drawstring that matches the colour of the activity marker in the map. Each bag contains a laminated sheet of instructions. Please start each task by reading the instructions. If you find that something is missing from the bags, please ask the information desk for more supplies.

You can take the tour in any order. Please read and bear in mind the instructions below. Enjoy your visit at the museum!

- Please walk calmly in the exhibition rooms.
- Remember to keep a safe distance to the artworks.
- Please do not touch the artworks.
- Please return the cart and the supplies where you found them.

PLAYBOX FOR CHILDREN – MAP

Vilho Lampi – The Great Expanse

"My core question on a starry night: am I on the right planet?” Vilho wondered.
THE THINKER (1929)

**Look at the artwork:** What is the person in the painting doing? What is he looking at? Where is he? What could he be thinking of?

*During his heroic period, Vilho painted large, unrestrained and powerful paintings. He portrayed the people of his time using strong brush strokes and earthy colours. The surface of The Thinker, a picture of a man lost in his thoughts, consists of numerous points of different colours. Looking closely the hat, for example, shows it is made of yellow, blue, green and brown dots.*

**Activity:** Take a black and white paper copy of The Thinker and some colour pencils from the bag. Draw a new thinking hat for the man that helps him find solutions to his problems or whatever he has on his mind. Use your imagination or just do something funny. Take your drawing home with you. You can also take a photo of it and share it on social media using hashtags #vilholampi #mietiskelija #ouluntaidemuseo.

**Materials:** paper copy of The Thinker, colour pencils.

STILL LIFE (1933)

**Look at the artwork:** What is the atmosphere like? What are the items on top of? What objects can you see in the painting?

*After his trip to Paris, Vilho painted numerous still lives and explored the world of objects and arrangements. The position, angle, colour and shape of each object are an important part of the composition. In the painting, you can see a chair with some objects on top of it. In the background there is a white piece of cloth with a flower on the corner.*

**Activity:** Select materials for your own still life from the bag. Take a wooden table from the bag as the base of your still life. Then arrange the objects you have chosen on top of the table into a miniature still life. Which object do you want to display most prominently? Could some of the objects be toppled or perhaps upside down? You can take a photograph of your still life and share it on social media using hashtags #vilholampi #asetelma1933 #ouluntaidemuseo.

**Materials:** pieces of fabric and small objects.
MAIJA AND ROSE (1933)

Look at the artwork: What is the child doing in the painting? What is she holding in her hands? What is she wearing? What is the colour of her dress?

In the early 1930s, Vilho painted portraits of children. He gave his models money and candy for their time. The girl in the painting stands out clearly from the light blue background. She looks serious and composed, adult-like. Her face and her countenance are coloured by deep emotions that evoke the world of adults.

Activity: Take some flowers and the cape from the bag. Take a posture similar to the girl in the picture. Hold a flower in your hands and look at it. You can take a photograph of your live portrait and share it on social media using hashtags #vilholampi #maijajaruusu #ouluntaidemuseo.

Materials: cape, artificial flowers.

DANCE ON THE BRIDGE (1930)

Look at the artwork: What is shown in the painting? What is under the bridge? Who do you think the people on the bridge are? What are they doing?

In addition to painting and farm work, Vilho was actively involved in the public life of his hometown Liminka. He also painted a dance party on a bridge one evening. The painting shows the powerful colours and brush strokes of his heroic period. The bridge and the dancers are reflected in the calm surface of the river while the sun sets in the background.

Activity: Take the cardboard theatre, paper dolls, story card and paper doll materials from the bag. Set the paper bear (featured in the story) on the bridge. Read the first part of the story. You can move the bear while you listen to the story. There will be instructions for making your own paper doll after the first part of the story. Read the second part of the story after you have finished your doll. You can move the paper dolls on the bridge while you listen to the second part of the story. You can also share a photo of your dolls and the theatre on social media with hashtags #vilholampi #siltatanssit #ouluntaidemuseo. You can take your paper doll home with you.

Materials: story, paper theatre, paper dolls, crafting materials.
Look at the artworks and their details through different frames when you visit the exhibition.

- Which frames would be good for which artwork? Why?
- Did any new details stand out when you looked at the artworks through the frames?
- At the end of your tour, choose your favourite frame and artwork and look at the whole. Why did you choose that particular artwork and that particular frame?

Vilho Lampi was a painter from Liminka, Finland. During his career he experimented with different painting styles and created different kinds of paintings. He had to balance his life between his calling as an artist and work at his family farm. He spent his days in farm work and painted in the evenings and the nights. He painted subjects such as self-portraits, portraits of children and adults of the farms, village views and landscapes of the low-lying fields around Liminka. He is called the “painter of the lowlands” and considered an interpreter of landscapes and inner worlds.

Vilho’s paintings are full of different objects from the past. Many of the items are still known today.

Activity: Take a bingo sheet from the bag. Find the objects in the squares of the bingo sheet in Vilho’s paintings. Can you find them all? Who gets bingo first? Bingo is a full vertical, horizontal or diagonal row.

Materials: bingo sheets, pencils
Once upon a time there was a bear living by a deep, wide river. Some distance away from the river there was a village and a forest where different kinds of animals, humans and other creatures lived. An old wooden bridge crossed the river. It was only used twice every year: in the autumn before winter came, when some of the animals and the people moved south for the winter, and in the spring when they returned. The bear hibernated so it didn't need to move anywhere. The bear lived by the river in a nice cave that was comfortable in the summer and warm in the winter.

The bear had watched the busy animals and villagers cross the bridge for many years. None of them ever had the time to stop and look at the lovely sunset that made the water below the bridge shine with beautiful colours and the bridge look all black against the evening sun. The bear enjoyed sitting on the bridge in summer evenings, fishing and watching the setting sun change the colours of the scenery from bright blues and greens to warm yellow and orange and finally the dim grey of the summer night.

One summer day the bear was walking on the bridge and thinking. How could the bear help the others notice how beautiful the bridge and the river were? Then the bear had a great idea. They could arrange a party on the bridge! A dance party! Music, food and dancing. How lovely it would be! And the sunset would crown the evening. The bear started hurriedly preparing the party and decorating the bridge with flowers and birch branches. Then the bear asked the birds to take the invitations to the animals and the villagers.

What other animals or creatures are coming to the party? Make your own party guest using the materials in the bag. Your party guest can be an animal, a human or a fantastic creature. Draw and colour the figure on the paper and cut it out using the scissors. Attach a stick that you can use to move the doll to the rear side of the paper doll using adhesive tape. When your guest is ready, set it on the bridge with the bear and finish the story. You can move the bear and your guest while you listen to the story. You can also take more paper dolls out of the bag to come to the party.

The next day the guests came to the bridge with lovely foods and music instruments. The bridge was soon full of people. There was music playing and everyone was dancing. The bear showed everyone how to dance the bear dance, and they sang summer songs and the musicians played guitars. Everyone had a great time and the food was very good. The bear smiled all the time.

Turn the theatre over to side B and set the figures back on the bridge.

In the evening the sun sank lower and lower. The bear asked everyone to gather by the edge of the bridge and look how the wonderful scenery was turned golden by the setting sun. How beautiful it was! The bear reminded everyone how important it was to just stop and look around for a moment sometimes. You just might see something fantastic. From that day on, the animals arranged a dance on the bridge every summer.