Title: Special Places
Type: Category 1

Lesson Overview
Students will explore the exhibition with discussion to follow. The students will then be asked to pay special attention to Don Weist’s, *Untitled*, and Lena Gurr’s *Up the Hill*. Discussion will be around what makes a place worth making art about, and what sort of places students value. Students will then be asked to create their own landscape based on the criteria that they have decided makes a place important.

Observe, question, explore
Students will explore the Artmobile Exhibition and discuss the themes they see, concepts presented and the work in general. They will talk about the piece(s) that they feel are the strongest and why they see them that way.

Create
In this workshop teachers will decide before the Artmobile arrives whether they would like their students to create either using printmaking or watercolors. If using watercolors, students will be given the opportunity to explore how to use different marks in the media by combining classic watercolors with watercolor pencils to depict a landscape. Focus will be on looking at Weist’s painting and the ways in which he applied paint to create his image. If using printmaking, students will use Styrofoam scratch plates and materials to create a monochromatic print paying attention to the way in which Gurr was able to produce detail without using color. The conceptual emphasis of both workshops will be on the students’ personal experience with a place that is important to them.

Reflect
Students will have the opportunity to share what they create and discuss the ideas represented in their pieces.

Suggestions for Teachers
- This lesson plan allows for easy cross curricular teaching. Students can be asked to write about the piece that they created, explain their choices and what importance this particular place has to them as an individual and perhaps the broader importance of that place to family or community.
- Students can look at historical depictions of a particular place that is in the immediate area and see the changes in those depictions over time. What
do the changes in these places say about the culture of the place and the importance those who live in it place on it?

**Essential Questions Addressed:**
1. How do you define an important place?
2. How does your perception of place change?
3. How do you show the importance or specialness of a place?
4. What is monochromatic mean?
5. How do you make marks using watercolor/printmaking?

**Suggested Use in the Curriculum**

The study of *Where We Are Is Just the Beginning* plus the historical and cultural knowledge students will gain from studying the work and ideas behind the exhibition tie to multiple curricular areas, including the study of art, writing, reading and literature, history and social studies, geography, geology, biology, chemistry, math and more. The Artmobile Curator will work with teachers to address specific Wyoming Teaching Standards and to align Artmobile projects and studies with ongoing classroom curricular units and areas of study.