



# Minnesota Humanities Center

## ACTIVITY GUIDE

## Michael Birawer – Painter

### Writing/Essay/Journal

Michael Birawer creates art to entertain. His art captures iconic places we already know, but he hopes his art will cause us to connect with them in a new, whimsical way. He uses many techniques to create 3D images that are interactive and show a level of detail that would not be possible with a photo or 2D painting.

At its very definition, writing is 2-dimensional, but try writing using so much detail that it allows the reader to visualize in three dimensions. Without naming the place outright, describe a place from top to bottom, left to right, bottom to top, front to back, diagonally. Map it out in words. Have someone else who has been there read your description and see if they can guess where it is.



#### Activity

One of the tools Birawer uses to add dimension to his paintings is a pastry bag filled with paint. Try painting using this method.

Cut a small corner of a sturdy plastic bag off (start with a small hole—you can always make it bigger if necessary). Fill the bag with frosting or thick paint and add some dimension to either a cookie or cupcake, or to a painting you've already made.

172 East Fourth Street • Saint Paul, MN • 651.222.1717 • mnoriginal.org



