Cherry Blossom Scavenger Hunt

As temperatures outside begin to get warmer and the cherry blossoms bloom here in Washington, DC, we encourage you to head outside to enjoy the first signs of spring. Go on a scavenger hunt and use the artworks listed below from SAAM’s permanent collection to help you explore outside and see how many of the signs of spring you can identify in your neighborhood.

1. In *Spring Dance* (1927) by Arthur Mathews, these people dance in a field with grass, yellow flowers, and blooming trees. Can you find grass, yellow flowers, or blooming trees in your neighborhood?

2. Look very closely at this small flower, and you will see one of the first signs of spring in much of North America. In fact, this flower is called “Harbinger of Spring,” which means it is a signal that spring will come very soon. What flowers are coming up where you live that show spring is coming soon?

3. Romare Bearden collaged *Spring Way* in 1964 to explore the rising social consciousness of the mid-1960s. The name of the work comes from an alley near where Bearden’s grandmother lived and reflects what he saw when he went outside. What do you see when you go outside?

4. This artwork is a type of work called a “print” and is simply titled *Spring*. Even though it is in black and white, what about this print looks like spring to you?

5. This woven work shows the bright pops of colors that come with spring, mixed with the dark browns that come with the mud of melting snow and spring rains. Do you have pops of color, brown mud, or both where you live?

6. Alma Thomas is an abstract painter, meaning she uses simple marks and colors to show the idea. This artwork, *Spring Grass*, shows a beautiful green field coming back after a brown winter. Do you see any spring grass coming out where you live?

7. Spring would not be complete in Washington DC without the annual cherry blossoms opening around the city. Are there cherry blossoms or other flowering trees where you live? What trees do you notice have the first blooms near your home?