



OGDEN MUSEUM  
OF SOUTHERN ART

## O-original Art Activities: Architectural Drawing Inspired by Robert Helmer



Robert Helmer, 1124 Bourbon Street, 1945, Hand colored print, Gift of the Roger H. Ogden Collection

**Robert Helmer** moved to New Orleans in 1949. He was a prominent figure at Tulane University. From 1952 to 1987, Helmer taught architectural design and drawing in the Tulane School of Architecture. He was an influential leader of the 1950s and 1960s New Orleans contemporary art movements. His art is inspired by the unique **architecture** and buildings of New Orleans.

**Find inspiration in the streets of New Orleans and create an architectural drawing like artist Robert Helmer.**

**SEE ROBERT HELMER'S 1124 BOURBON STREET IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM.**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL**  
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### Supplies

Ruler, Paper, Pencil, Eraser, Ink Pen, Crayons

### Instructions

**Step 1:** Find a building or house in New Orleans that you would like to draw! You can do this by using Google Earth to virtually tour the city and find a building that interests you! If you do not have access to the internet, look up buildings in books, draw your house, or ask a parent or guardian for permission to take a walk around your neighborhood to pick out a building to draw.

**Step 2:** Once you have found a building that you want to draw, sketch the architectural elements of the building! Use a ruler and pencil to draw the straight lines of the building. Start with the outline of the building, then draw the major features.

**Step 3:** Use a pen to trace your drawing and add architectural features of the building and embellish the drawing. Helmer uses straight extended lines to capture his building and emphasize the **linear** qualities of the architecture.

**Step 4:** Don't forget to pay close attention to detail! We can see that Helmer purposefully includes a street sign and address to *1124 Bourbon Street*.

**Step 5:** Notice how Helmer's drawing is not just pen? Use crayons to add pops of color to your drawing. Helmer uses flat blocks of color to brighten his art.

**Step 6:** Well Done! You have just completed your drawing of a New Orleans house inspired by Robert Helmer!

### Vocabulary

**Architecture** - the practice and practice of designing and constructing buildings

**Linear** – straight lines extending throughout a painting

