To start, open out this sheet to its full size so that you can see the painting and these notes. Choose songs or pieces of music that come to mind as you look and imagine.

Your musical choices for Rue à Louveciennes:

Track 1 .................................................................
Track 2 .................................................................
Track 3 .................................................................

Listen and soften, find a way to be quiet and bring awareness to your body, the emphasis here being on simply noticing. Let your music begin and maybe close or lower your eyes; imagine the music around you, softly coming into your bones.

Warm up, take a few moments to wake up movement in your body. Maybe start by twinkling your fingers as if they were playing the piano, lifting one or both elbows and if possible, reach one or both arms wide. Keep waking up as much of your body as feels right.

Creating dance, imagine yourself in the artwork moving through the landscape, this might be the beginning of a small dance. Can you capture what you see and feel in movement? Let the rhythms and feelings of music help your dance to flow.

To finish, close or lower your eyes and hold something of the painting in your mind. Allow your body to rest quietly, that is a great dance too!

How did the painting change as you listened to the music?

Track 1 .................................................................
Track 2 .................................................................
Track 3 .................................................................

Let’s move, with dance artist Filipa Pereira-Stubbs - movement can be small, big or dramatic; there is no wrong way to dance.

If you would like to spend more time with Filipa and this painting, go to... The Street on YouTube Cambridge University Museums / Playlists / Artworks in Focus/ Relax, Look, Imagine, or scan the QR code.

What did it feel like to dance?
Rue à Louveciennes c. 1875-77
Alfred Sisley (1839 -1899)

As an Impressionist artist, Sisley dedicated himself to painting ‘en plein air’—outdoors. The invention of portable easels and oil paint in tubes helped to make this possible. Sisley was passionate about art and painted over 900 oil paintings and made over 100 pastel images.

Take a closer look, allow yourself five minutes or more to explore the colours, textures, shapes, mood and atmosphere of this painting.

What you seem perhaps it’s the clouds bursting with energy the bright sunlight casting deep shadows across the street’ or the ‘people leaning on the wall – time to linger, painted so simply with just a few brush strokes’ or perhaps the ‘delicate pastel colours’

- observations made by other picture gazers!

Imagine taking a stroll down this street, peeking into houses and shops. What are you wearing, who are you with, why are you there? As you walk, maybe you can hear people’s conversations ... what might they be talking about, are you tempted to listen?
Imagine that you are wandering down this cobbled street.

Why not take this shopping basket with you; what delights would you like to fill it with, some cheese, a baguette, something to drink, maybe a French, lace trimmed napkin?

How about with images or words filling the basket below.

Where you would like to go and sit to enjoy its contents, perhaps there’s a river to be found at the bottom of the street or a shady tree in the middle of a market square?
At home or when you have more time, take a closer look at the how Sisley has painted the clouds and trees in the picture, they are full of movement and life. Try experimenting with different art materials to create close studies of clouds and trees.

Below we have used oil pastels, and water colour and other types of paint, but you could also use colour pencils, collage or a combination of materials.