

LOOKING 101 GUIDE

There are many ways to interpret a work of art. This four-step guide is designed to help viewers observe carefully and think critically. You can begin by looking around and selecting an artwork you are interested in.

1. LOOK & DESCRIBE

What do you see?

Pause in front of a work of art and spend time looking carefully at it. List and describe everything you can see. Look again.

- What materials and techniques were used to make this work?
- What forms and/or figures do you see?
- What can you say about the colors? Light? Space? Perspective?
- What did you notice when you looked again?

2. ANALYZE

What is going on?

Build an initial analysis of the artwork based on your observations and personal response.

- What seems to be the focus?
- Do you recognize the subject matter?
- How does the work make you feel?
- How might your response be informed by your personal experience or background?

3. RESEARCH

What information is available about the artwork or the artist?

You can learn more about the artworks in this gallery by reading the brochure or scanning the QR code next to each work of art.

- How does this information reinforce or change what you observed by looking carefully?
- Is there anything in this information that you did not see or think about previously?

4. INTERPRET

What does it mean?

This final step brings together the observations you made by looking closely, your preliminary analysis, and the additional information you gathered through research to consider what a work of art might mean.

