

Art in the Everyday

ART ANYWHERE



Art is often thought of as separate from our everyday lives, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Artists across cultures and time create art to beautify and enrich the everyday. This self-guide will explore the Utah Museum of Fine Arts' global collection to look at artful everyday objects. We here at the UMFA recommend spending about 10 minutes with each object, looking closely and thinking about the questions. At the end of this guide, you will create your own artwork inspired by art in the everyday.

***Pedestal End Sideboard
in Neoclassical Taste***

Joseph B. Berry
American, 1813–1818
Mahogany, brass, gilt
UMFA1993.026.001



- Why might this object live here at a museum?
- Could you picture this object in the space where you live?
- Take a moment to really look closely. Do you notice any interesting patterns or ornamentation?
- How is this object similar to or different from something you may have in your living space?



Jaiqing Imperial Candlestick

Unknown

Chinese, 1796–1820
Porcelain, high fire glaze, luster
UMFA2014.4.56

- Spend some time looking at the details. How would you describe this candlestick holder to someone who has not seen it?
- Is there something special about this object that makes it art?
- How do the colors of the object affect your perception of it?
- If you could change one aspect of this object, what would it be? Why?

NOTES, SKETCHES,
OBSERVATIONS:



Timor Spoon

Unknown

Timor

Horn

UMFA1987.001.017

- Do you think this spoon was used for everyday tasks or for special events? What makes you think that?
- Take a minute to observe the handle of the spoon. Do you notice the bird on top?
- On the island of Timor, the indigenous peoples believe their ancestors take the form of great birds. If you were to make an object that represents your family, what would you create? Would you include an animal?

NOTES, SKETCHES,
OBSERVATIONS:



front view



side view

Baby Carrier

Unknown

Borneo

Rattan, wood, beads, shells, ivory

UMFA1999.55.50

- Inspect the bead work. Can you make out any faces or human forms?
- Compare this object to another one you have seen on this tour. How are they similar and different? Consider line, color, shape, medium, and texture as you compare and contrast the two objects.
- Would you design something this ornate for an everyday task, like carrying a child? Why or why not?
- This artwork was created with materials that the artist found in their local community. If you were to create an artwork that represented your home, what materials would you use?

NOTES, SKETCHES,
OBSERVATIONS:



side view



front view

Yoke

Unknown

Guatemalan, 300–500 C. E.

Stone

UMFA1979.180

- Art historians cannot agree on what function this yoke might have served in ancient Mayan life. Yokes are large rounded bars, usually used to fasten animals to carts and farm equipment. However, some think this piece was used for a Mesoamerican ball game. What function do you think it might have served in the game? Could it have been the goal? Was it a belt the players wore?
- On a piece of paper, sketch the different lines and shapes you see. What tools did the artist use to create these designs?
- This artwork is made out of stone. What textures do you imagine you would feel if you could touch this artwork? Do you think that it's heavy or light? Why do you think it's made out of stone instead of a different material?
- If you created a game or sport around this artwork, how would someone play it? Would it be a team or solo sport? What are the rules?

NOTES, SKETCHES,
OBSERVATIONS:

Post Tour

Art-making Activity

WHAT YOU NEED:

This art activity works with any supplies you have on hand at home. You can use anything from a pen and paper to play dough!

INSTRUCTIONS:

In this art activity, you will redesign an object of your choice.

1. Look around you and pick an object you'd like to redesign (ex. pen, chair, window, etc.)
2. Taking inspiration from the artworks, recreate the object in a more artful way. While redesigning your object, keep these things in mind:
 - How will your new object function?
 - Will it be the same or different?
 - How can you balance function with creativity in your redesign?



**Snap a photo of your
redesign and share it at
#UMFAathome!**

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Use this space for your redesign or use whatever medium you choose!

