

# Pre-Lesson: Creative Leaps

RIRIE-  
WOODBURY  
DANCE  
COMPANY



**UMFA**  
UTAH MUSEUM OF  
FINE ARTS



**Hi!**

**We are thrilled that you are going to join Ririe Woodbury Dance Company and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts as we dance, doodle, and discover the dynamic world of contemporary art and dance!**

**In the video you are about to watch, we will go on a diverse journey to react and respond to amazing works of both performing and visual art!**

**To prepare, please complete the following creativity warm-up:**



**Everyone needs a piece of paper and a pencil.**

**Look closely at this artwork and notice the many details.**

Current and next slide | Ingrid Calame, *#233 Drawing*, 2006, detail. Colored pencil, mylar. Purchased with funds from The Paul L. and Phyllis C. Wattis Fund, UMFA2006.44.1.





**What do you notice about the lines in this artwork?**

**Can you find a straight line?**

**Where is the curviest line?**

**Pick one line and try to follow it from its beginning to end.**

**Draw one of the lines on your paper!**

**Now, using your body, create the same line in space. Standing up or sitting down, which body part can you use?**

**What shapes are the dancers making with their bodies?**

**Try to create part or all of these body shapes by either sitting down or standing up. Notice where your head is in relation to the rest of your body, how your back can tilt in one direction or another, and how your arms and legs are designed.**



Current slide | Shirley Ririe and Joan Woodbury of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company



**Now can you create a completely different shape with your body? How can you make your original shape interesting and unique? Can you mix some straight lines, curved lines, bent, or twisted lines in one shape!?**

**Imagine you have a pencil or crayon on your elbow, and draw your favorite shape in the air. Now can you put the magic crayon on the top of your head and draw another shape in space? How about your knee? Your toes?**

**Now draw those same shapes on your paper!**

**How did it feel? What did you enjoy the most – drawing the shapes with your body in the air, or with pencil on paper, or both?**

**Great work!**

**Let's review the elements of dance and visual art!**

**Which elements do you find in both dance and visual art, and which one is unique to one of the forms?**





# Elements of Dance and Visual Art

**COLOR** - Our eyes see waves of light as color!  
Colors can be warm or cool, bright or dull.

**TEXTURE** - is how something feels or how it looks like it would feel. Some examples of texture are rough, smooth, bumpy or fluffy.

**ENERGY** - Similar to visual artists and texture, dancers use energy to change the qualities of their movements. You can even try the same example from above - move your body with rough, smooth, bumpy or fluffy energy!

**LINE** - can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal; straight or curved; thick or thin. The artist Paul Klee said, "a line is a dot that went for a walk."

**SHAPE** - can be geometric like squares and circles, or can be organic like the natural shapes of leaves and flowers. Shapes are flat, but forms are three-dimensional like a ball or a pyramid. Your body also has a shape, and you can change it when you are dancing.

**SPACE** - We have space all around us, and dancers use space in many different ways. Space can also be the area between and around objects. Space helps our eyes see the details of a dance or artwork more clearly!

**TIME** - Dancers can move with all of the time considerations in music: duration, speed/tempo, pulse/beat, accent, meter, phrase, syncopation, rhythm etc. Some visual artists create works that use time elements too: for example, a stop-motion film.

## Vocabulary

### **CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND ART**

- being made all over the world right now in the 21st century! It can be about ideas, feelings, stories, and much more.

### **REALISTIC** - something that you recognize

- people, animals, places. Showing the world as it looks.

### **ABSTRACT** - not realistic. Using colors,

lines, and shapes to create ideas about feelings and sensations. Everyone sees something different!

**GALLERY** - a room or building where people look at works of art--and dance!

**MURAL** - a painting on a wall or building. Murals are usually big and may be found in public places you walk or drive by every day!

**CHOREOGRAPHER** - a person who creates the dance.

**REHEARSAL** - a practice or trial run of a dance (or other kind of work) for a later performance.

**You are ready to explore contemporary dance and art! We hope you enjoy Creative Leaps!**

**We will see you soon!**

**Creative Leaps film**

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