

Pre-Lesson: How to Look at a Work of Art



Hello!

We are so excited to welcome you to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) on a field trip! During your visit we are going to explore a world of art in fun and interesting ways.

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



Vessel with Political Scene, Guatemala, Petén region, Maya culture, 600–900 A.D, earthenware and pigment. Purchased with funds from Friends of the Art Museum, UMFA1984.002

How to Look at a Work of Art!

(10-20 minute activity)

For this activity you will need:

- Paper
- Pencil

Chakaia Booker, American, *Discarded Memories*, 2008, tire, wood, metal, paint, purchased with funds from the UMFA Young Benefactors and the Phyllis Cannon Wattis Endowment for Modern and Contemporary Art, UMFA 2009.15.1A,B.



Before we can explore How to Look at a Work of Art, let's talk about what ART is!?

As a class, discuss the following questions:

- What does the word “ART” mean to you?**
- What different kinds of art can you think of?**
- Who makes art in your family? What do they make?**
- What kind of art do you create?**

ART...

- is **EVERYWHERE!**
- can express emotions and feelings!
- can tell stories!
- can help you learn and think about new and exciting ideas!

On your paper, use lines to draw how you feel right now! Are you happy, excited, grumpy, tired, or something else?

King's Hat, Yoruba, mid-20th century, cloth, basketry, glass beads, detail,
UMFA2008.32.31





Now let's look at a work of art!

As a class, name as many details as you can about this camel (colors, shapes, body language, what the camel is feeling, etc.)!

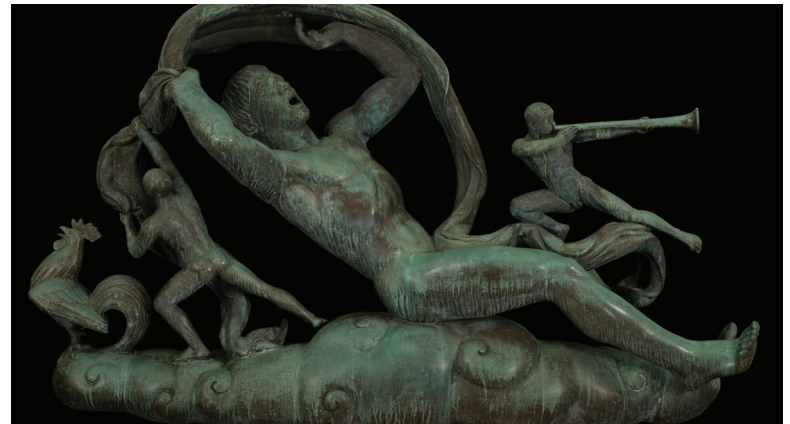
On your paper, draw the camel in its environment where it lives.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE!

Use art to tell a story with pictures! Set a timer for 2 minutes and using your paper, pencil, and creativity, draw a story of what you did this morning before school.

Now, add a surprising detail!
What is something you WISH happened to you before school this morning?

Share your story with others!



Paul Manship (1885–1966), American, *The Moods of Time: Morning*, 1938, bronze. Purchased with funds from the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation Museum, UMFA1983.005

Previous slide | *Bactrian Camel*, China, Tang dynasty (618–906), earthenware with three-color (sancai) glaze. Gift of Professor and Mrs. Lennox Tierney, assisted by Friends of the Art Museum, UMFA1977.240

Wonderful job exploring what art is and making art of your own! We can't wait to see you soon on your field trip at UMFA where we will learn many fun ways to look at works of art!

Lee Deffebach, American, *untitled*, 1986, oil on canvas. Gift of Meg Sullivan in memory of Margaret R. Sullivan, UMFA2001.4.1



Please review the following Museum Manners before your visit:

- **Have fun!**
- **Ask questions and share your ideas and thoughts**
- **Listen to and consider the ideas of others**
- **Please use indoor voices, feet, and hands in the Museum's galleries**
- **Look but don't touch: oil from your fingers will damage the artwork**
- **Stay with your group**
- **No food, drink, or gum is permitted in the galleries**

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