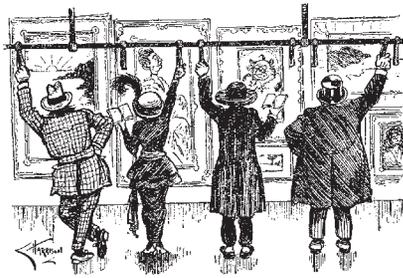


Here are some more creative ways to enjoy art:

- Look for art in public places.
- Read about art and artists in books from the public library.
- Visit museums and galleries.
- Watch programs about art and artists on public television.
- Take some art classes.
- Notice how art is used in advertising.
- Try creating your own art: use pencils, clay, crayons, paint, cut paper, fabric, or other materials.
- Create interesting arrangements when you set the dinner table or tidy up your desk top.
- Notice lines, shapes, and colors in the sky. What makes a sunset beautiful? Why do storm clouds look threatening?



- Explore the whole world of art using the internet. Here are a few places to start:

Getty Center • www.getty.edu

Metropolitan Museum of Art • www.metmuseums.org

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco • www.thinker.org

Art Institute of Chicago • www.artic.edu

Los Angeles County Museum of Art • www.lacma.org

- Visit the San Bernardino County Museum to see changing exhibits of fine arts, many by local artists.
- Visit the museum's Wildlife Art Festival every November and meet nationally-known artists.

The San Bernardino County Museum

2024 Orange Tree Lane • Redlands, CA 92374-4560

California Street exit from I-10 • (909) 307-2669

Tuesdays – Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • www.sbcountymuseum.org

This guide was developed to support visual arts curriculum standards by providing opportunities to develop and expand aesthetic perception, as well as to develop skills in interpreting, valuing and making meaning from experiences with works of art. We hope you enjoy it. Please contact the museum's education division with comments or ideas at (909) 307-2669.

Learning to Look

Creative Ways to Enjoy Art

To think that art must always be “beautiful” is like thinking people must always be happy. Viewing art is an emotional response to an artist's use of line, color, shape, texture, and content. Everyone sees a work of art in a different way.



Observing the details of a work of art is one good way to free your imagination, explore ideas, consider what the artist may be trying to say, and think about why certain artworks make you feel a certain way.

We invite you into the galleries to see works of art currently on exhibit. Try using some of the ideas in this booklet to look at art in different, creative ways. Take the booklet home and continue exploring the art that is around you all the time.

Please be aware that some artworks may challenge your notions of what constitutes art because of style or sensitive subject matter.

Shapes and Lines

Choose an artwork and look closely to find as many kinds of lines and shapes as you can. Is a face an oval? Is a nose a triangle? Does the stem of a flower curve, or is it a straight line? The artist's use of lines and shapes can make an artwork express an emotion: perhaps peaceful, or busy, or angry.

Color

Choose an artwork and look closely to find as many colors as you can. Do you see brown? Now look and see how many different kinds of brown are in the artwork. Do you see colors you don't know the names of? What would you name these colors? Color expresses emotions. How do different colors make you feel?

At home: look at magazine ads. How do their colors and shapes affect your mood? What feelings does advertising art try to create?

Materials

Choose an artwork and look closely to see if you can figure out what materials the artist used to create it. Paint? Pencil? Crayon? Metal, wood, or stone? Is there a mixture of materials? Notice how different materials have different textures. Are there materials that look like one thing, but are actually another?

Tools

Choose an artwork and look closely to see if you can guess what kinds of tools the artist used to create it. Can you see fine brush strokes? Chisel marks? Clean scissor cuts or torn edges? Think about how the tools work with the materials to create a mood.

At home: draw and fill in a simple shape with a pencil. Try using a sharpened pencil, a dull pencil, the pencil point and its edge. Draw over a smooth surface and a bumpy one. What different moods can you create?

Feelings and Emotions

Colors, lines and shapes can influence your mood. Does green make you think of nature? Do wavy lines make you dizzy? Glance at artwork in the room and find one that you don't like. Look closely at the way the artist used lines, shapes, and colors. Do they create a mood you find unpleasant? Why?



At home: find three artworks that contain a similar object (like a tree or a kitten). How are they the same? How are they different? How does each make you feel?

Imagination

Choose an artwork that shows people or animals. Using clues from color, shape, and materials, imagine a story about their lives. Where do they live? How are they related? What do you think they were doing just before the moment in the artwork? What do you think they will do next? What details of the artwork did you use to imagine your story?



At home: imagine a story based on an artwork. This time, write it down and add as many details as you can using clues from the piece of art. Use a variety of materials to illustrate your story. Don't copy the artwork! Create your own, showing what was happening before the artwork was created, and what will happen next.