

February 2, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3-5

Self-Portraits

Explore self-portrait and portrait paintings in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create your own self-portrait using mirrors and cut paper. Make one for your grown-up, too!

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Comics: Showing Stories

What are comics and how are they made? Take a look at Japanese printmaking and discuss the influence it had on comic books.

Activity: Draw your own comic that tells a story important to you.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Lines

Line, one of the major elements of art, is everywhere. Compare how two artists— a painter and sculptor— use it to describe a landscape.

Activity: Discover and master a technique for achieving perfectly straight lines in painting using painter's tape and acrylic paint on canvas.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Textile Arts

Discover how craftspeople embroider quilts and other textiles while looking at examples found in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create your own embroidery pattern with yarn and photographic backdrops mounted on cardboard.

Instructor: Philana Brown

February 9, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Where I Live

Take a closer look at artwork from and about the city of Boston while thinking about the different types of buildings that we have in this city and what it looked like many years ago.

Activity: Make an accordion book and add some of your favorite places in Boston.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Making History: Chinese Fan Painting

Learn about the history of fan painting in China and discuss the importance of the pictures the artists used for decoration.

Activity: Paint your own version of a Chinese fan.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Printmaking: Monoprints

The monoprint is a great introduction to printmaking. It has similarities to painting, is a process that can be easily understood, and is always unique. Take a look at some examples found in the Museum's galleries, then try making your own!

Activity: Monoprints

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Greek Daily Life

Discover how the ancient Greeks spent their average day while exploring some of the Museum's new Greek galleries.

Activity: Sculpt a clay vessel inspired by something you use everyday.

Instructor: Philana Brown

February 16, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

My Family

Explore the Museum's galleries to find family portraits. What makes a family?

Activity: Draw family members and add them to your own family tree sculpture.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Weaving Patterns

Look at examples of textiles in the Museum's galleries and discover how patterns are made on fabric.

Activity: Fabric weaving

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Wearable Art: Jewelry

Not all artwork is intended for a gallery. Take a closer look at pieces that were made to be worn as you think about the materials used, how they were attached, and what might make something art as opposed to adornment.

Activity: Create jewelry with embossed metal, beads, and a variety of jewelry findings.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Furniture Design

Discover how furniture design changes between cultures and time.

Activity: Design your own miniature chair using clay, wood, wire, upholstery filling, and fabric.

Instructor: Philana Brown

March 2, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Exploring Shapes

Circles, squares, and triangles! Look for simple geometric shapes in artwork throughout the Museum's galleries.

Activity: Make whimsical 3D sculptures using colorful paper shapes.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Decorating Metal: Engraving and Embossing

Learn about some of the ways that metal can be decorated, the difference between engraving and embossing, and when each technique might be used.

Activity: Emboss a design on a metal foil pendant

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

The Illusion of Drawing

Experience the illusions of M. C. Escher and discover how he transformed the ground of a blank sheet of paper into an undulating space.

Activity: Learn perspective drawing techniques and incorporate them into your own mythical illusionary scene.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Japanese Fashion Arts

Learn about how the kimono has become an iconic symbol of Japanese fashion while looking at examples from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create your own design for a kimono by drawing the silhouette and adding images and patterns with fabric, collage materials, and markers.

Instructor: Philana Brown

March 9, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Patterns

Take a closer look at patterns in textiles and designs found in artwork throughout the Museum's galleries.

Activity: Create your own miniature tapestry by weaving with paper and ribbons.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

The Night Sky: Constellations and Connections

What can we learn from the night sky? Discover how the night sky has provided information and inspiration for artists while looking at artwork in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Make a painting of the night sky using watercolor, crayons, and salt.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Feathers

Discover how feathers have been used in art from different cultures and time periods while thinking about why they might have been used and what they signify.

Activity: Create a feathery sculpture using a model magic form and feathers.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Close Look: Seeking Stillness

Explore how art can become an introspective and meditative process while taking a closer look at the "Seeking Stillness" exhibition.

Activity: Experiment with meditative mark-making using watercolors in a variety of cool colors on watercolor paper.

Instructor: Philana Brown

March 16, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Exploring the Color Wheel

What colors are on the color wheel? Discover some of the ways artists have used colors to make paintings and sculptures on view in the Museum's galleries.

Activity: Make our own marbled paper using a fun shaving technique.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Mobiles

Learn about the artist Alexander Calder and how mobiles are made as you take a closer look at some of his artwork.

Activity: Create your own hanging mobile using wire, beads, and mixed media.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Takashi Murakami

Discover the immersive bright world and characters of Takashi Murakami and think about similarities and differences to the ancient Japanese artworks in the show.

Activity: Sketch and paint bright, bold characters on canvas.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Close Look: (un)expected families

Explore how artists have captured the complicated definition of what a modern American family can be as you take a closer look at the “(un)expected families,” on view in the photography galleries.

Activity: Create a design for a home that reflects the values of your family then construct a 3D space using colorful paper, scissors, and a variety of collage materials.

Instructor: Philana Brown

March 23, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Balance

How do you make something balance? Explore the galleries to find sculptures that balance.

Activity: Make sculptures that balance using recycled linoleum, colorful wire, and wood pieces.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Drums and Percussion Instruments

What are percussion instruments and how are they played? Take a look at some of the drums and percussion instruments on view in the Museum's galleries and discover what sounds they make.

Activity: Create a drum using recycled materials.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Felting

From the shirt on your back to the couch you sit on, furniture, curtains, and accessories—we're in contact with fiber arts everyday. Felt made from wool is one of the oldest forms of textiles.

Discover what else can be created with wool roving as you take a closer look at examples from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Make your own animal from needle felting or dry felting using wool roving, felting needles, and yarn.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Narrative Vessels

Explore the galleries to decipher the stories artists tell through scenes painted on vessels.

Activity: Create a narrative inspired by the myths and stories from ancient cultures. Draw your story on a piece of paper, roll it into a cylinder, and attach to a base with a brass tack to rotate through each scene.

Instructor: Philana Brown

April 6, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

World Music

Take a look at some of the different instruments in the Museum's galleries, including paintings that feature women playing guitars.

Activity: Design and decorate our own life sized guitar shape using recycled materials

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Shape Shifting: Size and Scale

What is shape and what is scale? Learn about how shape, size, and scale are connected to each other while looking at examples of artwork on view in the galleries.

Activity: Make a miniature version of a piece of artwork seen on the tour.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Classical Art

Explore classical sculptures from ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the art of the Americas while discovering the characters depicted, choice of pose, and the subtleties achieved by creating a sculpture in an enduring medium.

Activity: Create a plaster hand impression and a miniature wax figure sculpture using additive and subtractive processes.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Manuscripts

Discover the amount of care and attention went into the making and binding of books before the invention of the modern printing press.

Activity: Create your own beautiful book. Experiment with binding techniques and decorate the cover with a variety of collage materials and fabric.

Instructor: Philana Brown

April 13, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Food in Art

Who's hungry? Explore the galleries in search of still life paintings featuring food, and take a look at some decorative plates and bowls.

Activity: Make a sandwich collage using yarn, cellophane, foam, and other mixed media as pretend condiments and toppings.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6–8

The Iron Age: Casting with a Mold

Learn about lost-wax casting, and why it was so important in the Iron Age. Discover how artists have used this important technique as you look at art from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create a mold with clay and then use plaster to create a sculpture.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9–11

Paper

Explore works made from paper found in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Paper quilling using paper, glue, quilling tools, and tape.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Music and Sound

Learn about beautifully crafted instruments used in the art of making music.

Activity: Create sound sculptures using wire, hollow metal rods, wooden beads, and recycled materials.

Instructor: Philana Brown

May 4, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Looking at the Sky

Take a closer look at big skies and clouds found in artwork throughout the Museum, and discover what the sky looks like at different times of the day.

Activity: Make your own watercolor landscape with crayon resist clouds.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

Rocks

Discover the different types of rocks that have been used by artists while taking a look at sculptures on view in the Museum's galleries.

Activity: Carve a small sculpture using a child-friendly carving medium.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9-11

Still Life

Explore different artists' approaches to still life as you take a closer look at artwork from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Work collaboratively with other students in the class to create a still life setup then create your own artwork using chalk pastels.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Set Sail

Explore the galleries to learn more about maritime culture from around the world before modern forms of transportation existed.

Activity: Make a sculpture of a boat using origami, fabric, and wooden rods.

Instructor: Philana Brown

May 11, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3–5

Art about the Sun and Moon

Take a closer look at artwork featuring the sun and moon.

Activity: Use paint and mixed media to create suns and moons on canvas.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6–8

Light, Shade, and Shadow

Learn about Japanese sumi-ink. Discover how it is made and how artists have used this painting technique to create beautiful artwork.

Activity: Create a sumi-ink painting on rice paper with values ranging from black to white.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

Ages 9–11

Black and White

Is an artwork that is made with only black and white easy to understand? Decide for yourself while exploring monochromatic masterpieces in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create a monochromatic masterpiece using Sumi ink, bamboo brushes, white watercolor paper, and black paper.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Close Look: "M. C. Escher: Infinite Dimensions"

Discover how artist M. C. Escher manipulated perceptions of reality by creating convincing drawings of impossible forms.

Activity: Based on Escher's interpretations of the Penrose steps, collage the impossible staircase using magazine images and perspective drawing.

Instructor: Philana Brown

June 1, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Ages 3-5

Greek Art

Explore ancient Greek vessels to discover stories found in their designs and decorations and learn more about their original purpose.

Activity: Create vessels out of clay using pinch pot and coil pot techniques.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

Ages 6-8

All Buttoned Up!

Discover some of the ways that buttons can be used to make art while looking at art from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create your own version of a Native American button blanket.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

9-11 years

The Art of Food

Used to present, cook, or store food—a lot of art objects have a place at the table. Take a look at paintings and sculptures featuring food, including a giant mural of colorful food created by children!

Activity: Sculpt food-inspired forms out of Model Magic in order to create a feast of sculptures with your classmates while considering texture, color, and scale.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Printmaking

Explore how artists have used multiple forms of printmaking to create unique works or multiple copies.

Activity: Experiment with gel printing plates and printmaking ink to create one-of-a-kind prints.

Instructor: Philana Brown

June 8, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

3-5 years

Native American Art

Explore Native American art through stories and crafts including potlatch blankets, vessels and baskets.

Activity: Basket Weaving

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

6-8 years

Oh Deer... and Other Four-Legged Creatures

Discover the different types of animals that can be found in the Museum's collections. What can they tell us about the artists who made them?

Activity: Sculpt a model of a deer out of clay.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

9-11 years

Immersive Stillness

Discover how artwork depicts stillness and how artists can make a viewer feel calm.

Activity: Inspired by Rothko, create a composition on canvas using washes of blended colors to create smooth gradients.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Funerary Objects

Learn how ancient Egyptian pharaohs prepared for the afterlife while taking a closer look at ancient Egyptian artifacts.

Activity: Use clay, beads, and paper to sculpt a favorite object that you might bring to the afterlife.

Instructor: Philana Brown

June 15, 2018 – 2:00PM – 4:00PM

3-5 years

Ancient Asian Art

Learn about ancient Chinese and Japanese arts, culture and mythology while exploring art from the Museum's collections.

Activity: Create moveable dragon puppets with paper, drawing materials, and metal brads.

Instructor: Kara Stokowski

6-8 years

Flowers and Bouquets: The Art of Arrangements

Take a closer look at examples of Dutch floral still lifes and other paintings featuring flowers and learn about why they have been so important to artists throughout the ages.

Activity: Create artificial flowers using fabric, tissue paper and wire.

Instructor: Sarah Pollman

9-11 years

Awesome Assemblage!

Explore works of art from the Museum's collections that have been inspired by collage.

Activity: Work together to make a large scale collaborative assemblage.

Instructor: Gianna Stewart

Teens

Dark Palette: Mark Rothko

Take a closer look at artist Mark Rothko's contemplative "dark palette" paintings.

Activity: Use dark shades of acrylic paints in purples and greens to create a painting on a black gessoed canvas.

Instructor: Philana Brown