

Art Detective Tools: Look! Discover! Create!

Looking at art is an **active** experience that can be incredibly **powerful**!
It can change the way you see the world!
Investigate and explore any work of art by using the 3-Step Looking Plan.

Look!

Look carefully at a work of art. Notice the details, both big and small.

- What did you notice first?
- What did you notice after looking longer?
- What colors do you see, and how would you describe them? Soft? Bright? Do they repeat?
- What shapes do you see? Do they repeat?
- Does it look like a scene from real life?
- What is the texture? Rough? Smooth?
- Are there any hidden details, things that others might miss?

Discover!

Add some information. Sometimes, there are stories and facts that help us understand a work of art, and the MFAH can help you with those. But, don't forget how much you know! Think about what you have learned in school and your life experiences and how it could help you understand this work of art.

- Read the label. Some works of art are cell phone stops—call to learn more.
- Where was the work of art made? Did that place impact the types of materials used or the stories it tells?
- Was this object created to be used? What was its function? For eating? A ceremony? Something that was worn? Something that was played with?
- Does it remind you of anything in your own life?
- Have you read a book, watched a movie, or seen something on the internet that helps you understand this work of art or the part of the world where it was made?

Create!

Put it all together—everything that you have noticed and learned about this work of art—and start talking about what this art object means to you. A work of art is never about just one thing, so it is OK if it means different things to different people.

- How does it make you feel?
- Does it make you think about the world in a new way?
- What would you like to tell the artist about the work of art?
- If you could give this work of art to someone, who would it be? Why?
- What would you name this work of art?

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