

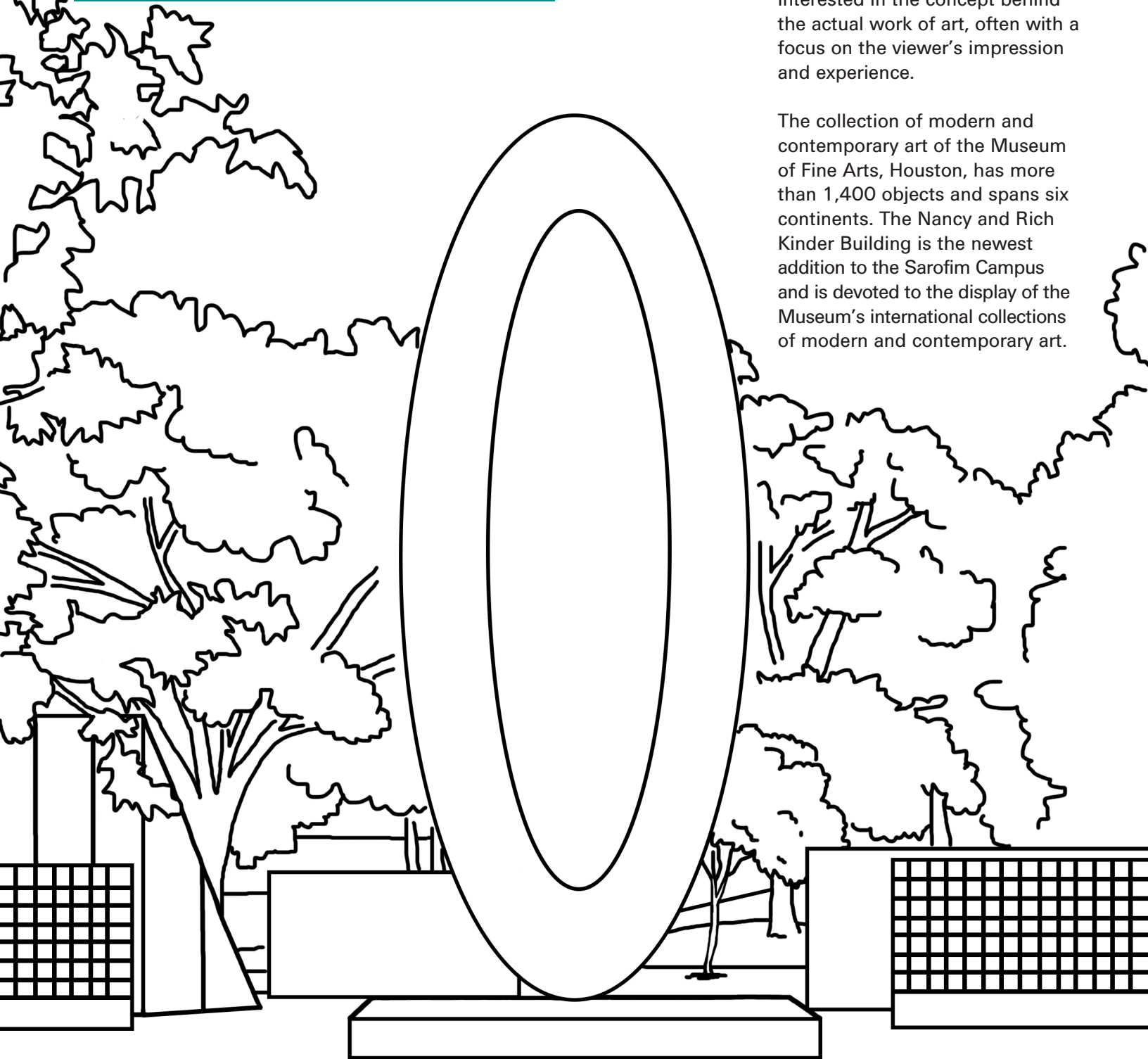
MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

Family Activity Book

Modern & Contemporary Art

Modern art began in the late 19th century when artists rejected traditional perspective and subject matter. Beginning in the 1960s, **contemporary** artists became more interested in the concept behind the actual work of art, often with a focus on the viewer's impression and experience.

The collection of modern and contemporary art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has more than 1,400 objects and spans six continents. The Nancy and Rich Kinder Building is the newest addition to the Sarofim Campus and is devoted to the display of the Museum's international collections of modern and contemporary art.



Cloud Column

This highly reflective sculpture is made out of polished stainless steel and stands 30 feet tall. The mirrored surface reflects and distorts its surroundings.

Cloud Column by Anish Kapoor, 1998–2006

Drawing Warm-ups

Find an object with a reflective surface in your home and draw it. (Examples: a mirror, a phone screen, or something made of metal)

Draw your favorite pair of shoes.

Look at the sky and find a cloud in an interesting shape. Using your imagination, draw the cloud and transform it into an animal.

Draw an alien from outer space.

This painting of a man, woman, and girl is titled *The Family* by artist Alice Neel. Neel is known for her **paintings of people, called portraits**.

If you were to paint a portrait of your family, what expressions would they have on their faces? How would they be dressed? What would their body postures tell the viewer?



The Family by Alice Neel, 1970

Eye Spy



Gyula Kosice, *Constelaciones no. 2* (*Constellations no. 2*) from *La Ciudad Hidroespacial* (*The Hydrospatial City*), 1971, acrylic, Plexiglas, paint, and light, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by the Caroline Wiess Law Accessions Endowment Fund, 2009.29.2. © Museo Kosice, Buenos Aires

Gyula Kosice (1924–2016) was an Argentine sculpture artist. He was one of the most important figures in **Kinetic** and **luminal** art, meaning he made art that can **move** and **light up**. Because of his interest in space travel, Kosice wanted to create an imaginary, self-sustaining cosmic city using plastic, metal, and other materials that were collaged onto pictures of the night's sky.

Search for the items in the artwork above.

- A bright yellow sun
- A spaceship
- A purple planet
- A cluster of stars

Creative Challenge: Design your own galaxy. Decide the shape of the galaxy and where your planets would be. Make a drawing of your galaxy using different colors for the stars, moons, and planets.

Soft Sculpture

Mexican artist Margarita Cabrera's *Bicicleta: Negra* (*Bicycle: Black*) is a sculpture of a bicycle made out of fabric, foam, string, and wire. If you were to touch it, what do you think it would feel like?

This work was inspired by one of many products manufactured in Mexico and imported to the United States.

Cabrera **collaborated** with Mexican immigrants to handsew sculptures like this one. Creating artwork with her community encourages their support of each other. Have you ever **collaborated** or **worked together with someone you know** to create something?

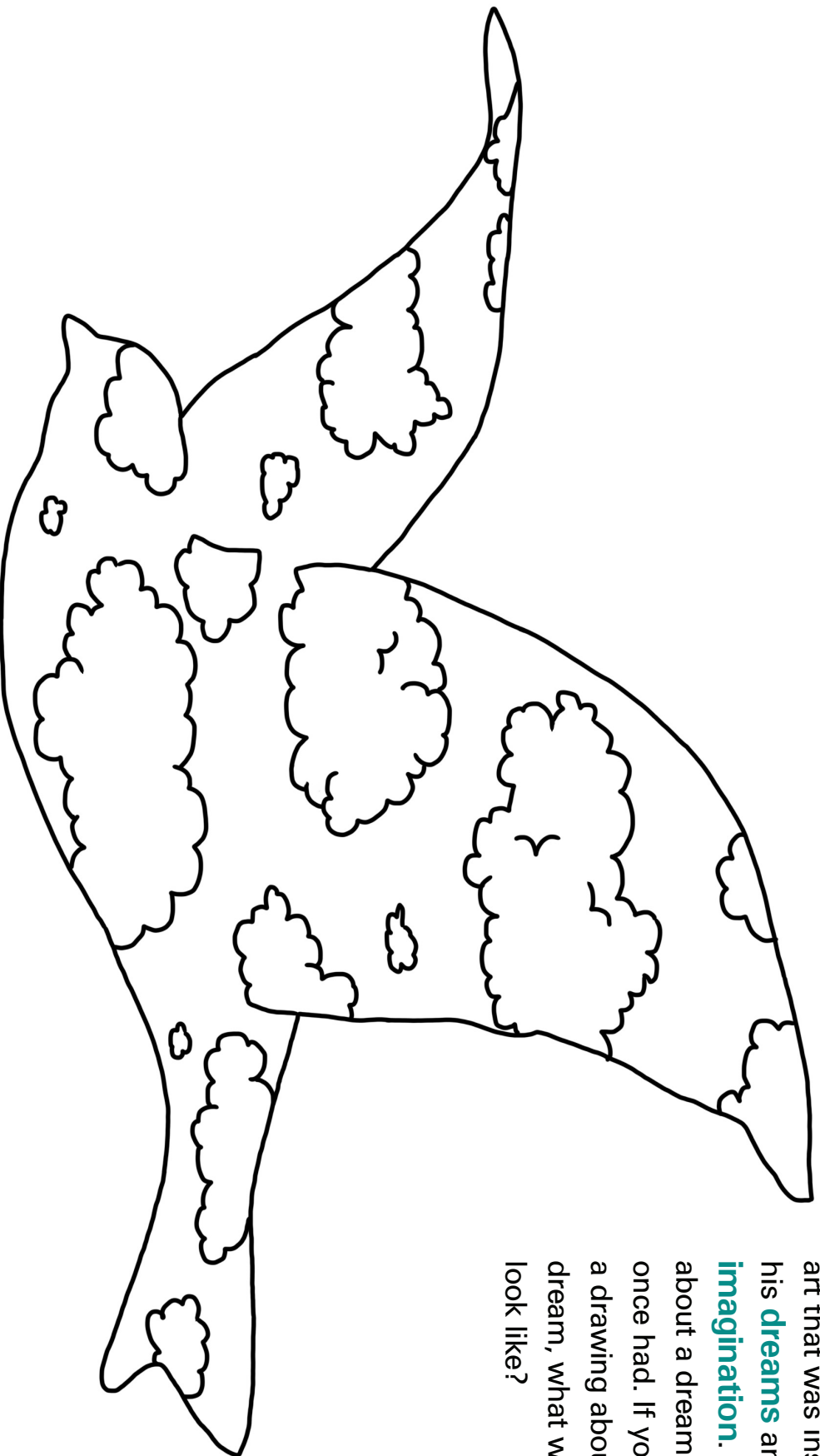


Margarita Cabrera, *Bicicleta: Negra* (*Bicycle: Black*), 2006, vinyl, foam, string, and wire, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of Sara Meltzer Gallery, New York, and the artist, 2010.1466. © Margarita Cabrera / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY

Collaborate with someone on a drawing in the space below.

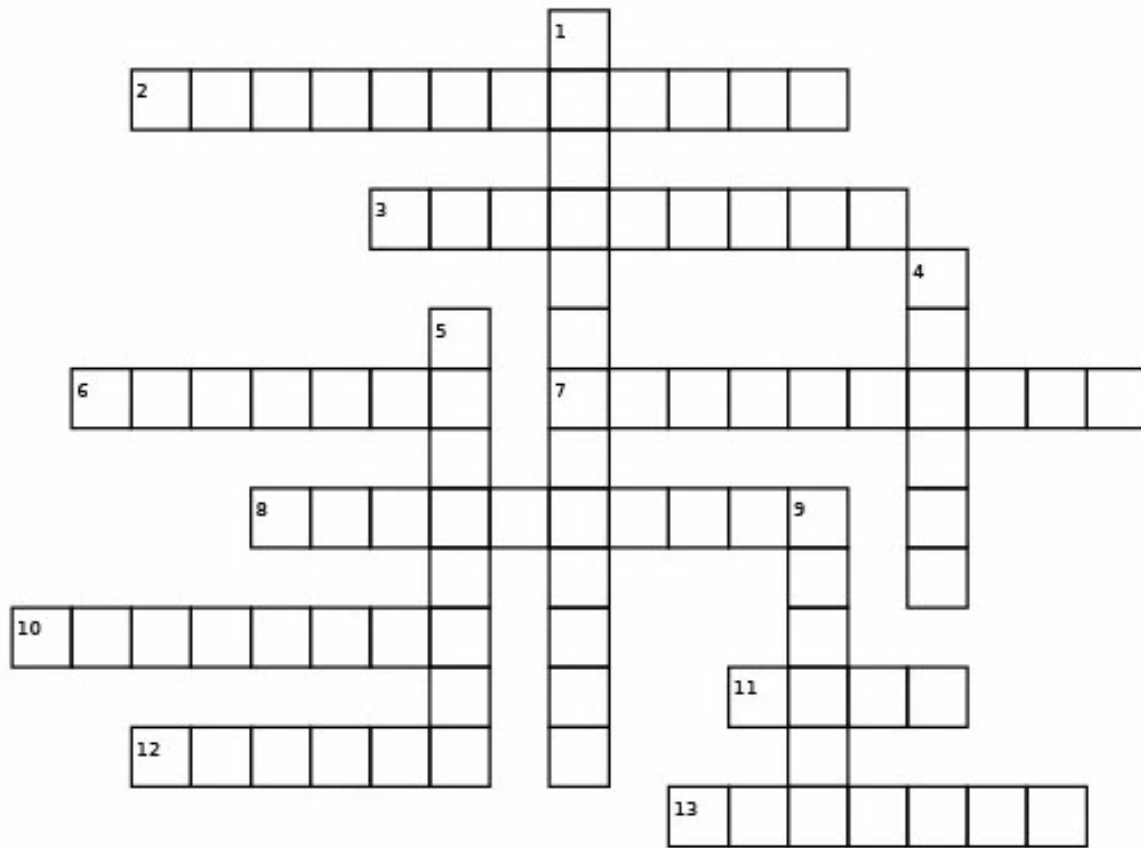
Surrealism

René Magritte was a Surrealist artist. He was interested in making art that was inspired by his **dreams** and vivid **imagination**. Think about a dream you once had. If you made a drawing about your dream, what would it look like?



Crossword Puzzle

Modern & Contemporary Art



Down:

1. Working together to create something.
4. Artist who makes reflective sculptures.
5. Surrealist artist.
9. Art movement that rejected tradition.

Across:

2. Art that is created today.
3. 3-Dimensional work of art.
6. Artist who makes soft sculptures.
7. Universe beyond planet Earth.
8. Art movement inspired by dreams.
10. Painting of people.
11. Artist known for her portraits.
12. Artist who creates cosmic cities.
13. Art that can move.

Word Search

The Kiss by René Magritte

R A K P G U B Q Z O
Z T K B E K R Z G W
C S H I D E U J I R
C B I R S T K F A N
K H Z D D G H I B S
T A I L E A N E U R
Y L E E G T M I A O
K I U B Q V I G W D
T L O Q M L Z H Z C
B L C U F K A Z W X

BIRD
HEAD
BEAK
WINGS
BLUE
WHITE
TAIL

The Family by Alice Neel

G A V O C I I P V K
U I S Q U D P R M A
F P H E T O D O W I
T D G S Y D C E Y M
N S P K S E T S B S
F R A C S M U D E E
K L L O P S R N L C
B P X S M M J A T A
C K E W A R A H D F
H L E G S A T Z H A

FACES
EYES
HANDS
ARMS
LEGS
SCARF
SOCKS
BELT

Learn more about these and other works of art: tfa.mfah.org.
Explore more at-home learning activities: mfah.org/itahome.

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