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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Drawing Warm-ups</th>
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<tr>
<td>Find an object with a reflective surface in your home and draw it. (Examples: a mirror, a phone screen, or something made of metal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Look at the sky and find a cloud in an interesting shape. Using your imagination, draw the cloud and transform it into an animal.</td>
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</table>
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?
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?

**Collaborate with someone on a drawing in the space below.**
The Kiss (Le Baiser) by René Magritte, 1951

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?
Modern & Contemporary Art

Crossword Puzzle

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.
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
B I R D
H E A D
B E A K
W I N G S
B L U E
W H I T E
T A I L

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
F A C E S
E Y E S
H A N D S
A R M S
L E G S
S C A R F
S O C K S
B E L T

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

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