



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

Activities taken from *Let's Go to the Museum*

By Virginia K. Levy, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, 1988.

Paintings are works of art made with paint on a flat surface.

- ❖ Find a painting that interests you. Stand in front of it. Look. What made you choose this painting?
 - Was it the _____?
 - Was it the _____?
 - Was it familiar?
 - Was it new to you?

- ❖ Find a landscape, a portrait, a still life, and a seascape. Record their names.

Portrait: A painting of person or a group of people.

Still life: A painting of non-moving objects such as fruit, books, flowers, furniture.

Seascape: A painting of ocean, lakes, sky, boats...

Landscape: A painting of natural subjects such as mountains, trees, sky fields.

- ❖ Is your painting a portrait, still life, seascape or landscape? Or is it a non-objective painting?

Non-objective: Works of art without recognizable subject matter. Line, colour, shape, and texture make the subject.

Let's find a **portrait** in the museum.

Before the camera was invented, artists painted portraits of people for the same reason we take photographs today... to record how a person looks. Artists today paint portraits to show a likeness but even more, to interpret the subject's personality or character.

Does the portrait you have selected in this museum have a label under or to one side of it? This may tell you the title or the name of the person, the artist's name or when it was painted!

Title _____
Artist's name _____
Date _____

- ❖ Is the portrait of a famous person?
- ❖ Is this person happy or serious?
- ❖ What do the clothes tell us about this person?
- ❖ If this person could talk, what would he or she say?

This space is for you to draw a **portrait** of yourself or a friend. Hint: if you are drawing a self-portrait, look at yourself in a mirror while you draw!

Let's find a **still life** in the museum.

Does it have flowers, fruit, a vase, a table... What objects are in your painting? What shapes are these objects?

❖ Can you name these shapes?

◇ D _____

□ S _____

△ T _____

○ C _____

▭ R _____

❖ Can you find examples of shapes in your still life? Can you form the shapes using your fingers?

This space is for you to draw a **still life**. Hint: use colours you like. Use objects for your subject matter that have various shapes and sizes.

Let's find a **seascape** in the museum.

The sea, boats, and sky are favorite subjects for paintings. Do you like to watch the waves, sail a boat, or see the sun set over the water?

- ❖ Is the sea calm or rough? Peaceful or stormy?
- ❖ What colours would you use to make a painting of a storm at sea?
- ❖ What colours would you use to make a painting of a sunny, calm day at sea?
- ❖ How would you show the wind blowing?

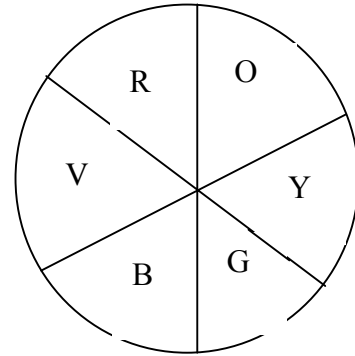
Look at colours!

Colour the wheel, right:

And

Fill in the blanks, below

R ___ O _____ Y _____
G _____ B _____ V _____



Can you make a **seascape** that shows the wind blowing, boats moving, and the sun shining?

What is the name of your seascape?

Title: _____

Let's find a **landscape** in the museum.

Outdoor scenes... trees, mountains, meadows... all nature is subject matter for landscape paintings.

Perspective is the technical way the artist achieves the illusion of depth and distance on a flat surface. It is one way that an artist shows things appearing near or far.

- ❖ Have you ever looked down a straight section of railroad track? Do the two straight, parallel rails seem to come together in the distance? This imaginary point when they seem to meet is called the vanishing point.

There are other ways to show perspective:

1. When one object is painted partially hidden by another.
2. When distant objects are painted smaller.
3. When objects are painted with less detail.

Draw your **landscape** here. You might like to draw your house. Hint: if you live in the city, your picture could include some buildings, cars, and signs, rather than just trees and grass.

What is an **Abstract** work of art?

In an abstract artwork the subject matter may be real objects but the artist changes or simplifies them to show how he feels about the subject. In an abstract, look at how lines, colours, shapes, and textures are used to compose the artwork.

❖ Find an abstract artwork in this exhibition. In the artwork, identify four abstracted objects:

1. Name of artwork, artist and origin: _____
2. Name of artwork, artist and origin: _____
3. Name of artwork, artist and origin: _____
4. Name of artwork, artist and origin: _____

Texture: The way things feel when we touch them or just by looking at them we know how they feel. When an object looks like it has a texture but doesn't really, this is called *synthetic* texture.

❖ How can you show *texture* in your abstract? Try using your pen or crayon in a way that will look smooth or rough.

Make an **abstract** here. Use various lines, colours, and shapes. Remember that your objects must be recognizable, but you can distort or change the lines, colours and shapes.

Sculpture

...is three-dimensional art and exists in real space

It has height, width, and depth... it is made to be looked at from more than one side.

Sculptors work in:

- Clay
- Wood
- Metal
- Plastic
- Stone
- Marble

Three ways to form a **sculpture**:

1. *Carving*: if you work in soap, wood, or stone, you carve or cut away your piece of sculpture from a solid mass of material. This is called... carved.
2. *Modeling*: if you work in clay or papier-mâché, you build up layers or model your piece of sculpture. This is called... modeled.
3. *Constructing*: If you join pieces of wood, metal or plastic together with wire, glue or nails, it would be called... constructive.

Sculpture

...*in the round*: you can see all four sides by walking around the sculpture. It can be representational or non-representational.

...*in relief*: Sculpture that is meant to be viewed from the front. The forms are raised from a flat surface. Example: pictures on coins.

... *mobile*: Sculpture made of shapes or parts that move either by air currents or motor.

... *assemblage*: A sculptural technique of arranging objects to form a unified composition. The artwork is usually made of a group of unrelated and often discarded objects.

Let's find a sculpture in this museum!

- ❖ Is it abstract or lifelike?
- ❖ Can you make a gesture like the sculpture you found in the museum? What idea or attitude does it express?
- ❖ Do you know what the surface of the sculpture feels like? What is it made of? Is the texture smooth or rough?

Try this:

Close one eye. Raise your arm straight out in front of you. With your finger, point to the sculpture. Now, starting at the top, follow the outside form. Does it make a straight line, curved or jagged? Continue around the sculpture, back to where you started.

You can make an assemblage.

1. Assemble materials such as:
 - Spools
 - Buttons
 - Pieces of toys
 - Clothespins
 - Twigs
 - Shells
 - Other things you may like for their colour, texture, or shape.
 - Beans
 - Macaroni
 - String
 - Scraps of wood
 - Corks
2. Arrange in a shallow box top, in a cigar box, on a piece of plywood or in a picture frame with a back.
3. Glue the objects down in your box or on your board.
4. You may like the spray paint your assemblage with clear lacquer or black or a colour.
5. Have fun!