FWMoA VIRTUAL TOUR

This packet designed to accompany our virtual tour includes more information about each exhibition along with in-depth, guided looks at one work from each, suggested art-making activities, and further resources.

Take our virtual tour here: https://poly.google.com/u/0/view/fU3Pu_PRbWS
You can also view video walking tours of each exhibition on FWMoA’s Facebook.
Find more resources including coloring pages at fwmoa.org/PreK-12

If you create artwork using the prompts here, we’d love to see it! Share it on social media using #ArtStartsHere and #fwmoa.

Here are some general tips and ideas for engaging with almost any artwork:

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER OR DISCUSS

• What materials or processes do you think the artist used to create it? Why do you think they chose to work with those materials rather than others?

• Look away, then look back. Where do your eyes go first? Where do they rest? What visual elements does the artist use to accomplish this?

• Describe the kinds of lines, shapes, and colors you see. Do these create a certain mood in the work? How?

• Does the title of the work help you understand its meaning? If it’s untitled, what would you call it? If it has a title, would you give it a different one than the artist did?

ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

• Sketch! You don’t have to replicate the artwork exactly as the artist made it. Choose one aspect to focus on: maybe you’re interested in understanding the composition, so you sketch the general outlines of the shapes you see. Maybe there is one small detail you particularly like. Sketching helps us understand the artist’s thought process.

• Act it out!
  ◇ If the work includes people, choose one and pose like them. What were they doing before this picture was made? What will they do next? How do they feel?
  ◇ If it’s a landscape or city scape, imagine yourself in the scene. What is the weather like? What clothes would you wear? What sounds would you hear or smells would you smell?
  ◇ If it’s an abstract work, strike a pose like a shape you see! Imagine the artwork in motion: how would your shape move?

• Use a pipe cleaner (or anything else bendy like a wire hanger) to replicate the kinds of lines and shapes you see. Take it further: try this for a few works of art, then combine your shapes and lines into a 3-dimensional sculpture!

• Write! If the artwork is narrative, what story can you tell using it as a starting point? Write a letter or diary entry from the perspective of someone in the scene. Or, write a descriptive poem using any artwork as a starting point.
Hope Dies Last: The New Armenia—Photographs by Michelle Andonian

Michelle Andonian, a photographer from Detroit, traveled to Armenia to learn about her family’s history. Her grandmother was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, an event that forced Armenians to leave their homes and walk across the desert. On her multiple trips to now Turkey and Armenia, Michelle retraced her grandmother’s footsteps and documented the ruins of her ancestors’ homelands. Armenia was once an empire and was the first Christian state. Speaking of her journey to Armenia, Andonian has stated:

“I found myself in a land of past kings, queens, castles, crusades, and genocide. Here, history lay in ruins. Moving deeper into the mountains of Turkey and what is historically known as The Armenian Highlands, there were over 2,000 active churches until 1915. Evidence of them still exists in the bullet-scarred and bombed facades along with the thousands of crosses carved into the walls of the stone skeletons of worship. You cannot erase a culture or reinvent history.”

Andonian has traveled to Armenia on several occasions, and her most recent trip in summer 2019 was supported in part by the Fort Wayne Museum of Art in service of this exhibition. The lands of Armenia are constantly changing, and Andonian returns to refresh her series whenever she gets the opportunity. The newest works from the series have been acquired by FWMOA and are now part of the museum’s permanent collection.

Michelle Andonian
American, b. 1958

Kurdish Children, Village of Por, Bitlis Province, Turkey
Archival pigment print, 2013-2014
Gift in memory of Sarah Andonian, who survived the Armenian Genocide of 1915

“In remote Turkish villages children come running to us, curious and happy to show us around. It is said that many of them have Armenian blood. In the village of Por, playing amidst the ancient khachkars, they point out birds, faces, and crosses. Some of the reliefs are colored with crayons, as if these ancient stones are their storybooks.”

Think or Discuss:

What details do you notice in this photo? Be sure to notice not just the faces and poses, but also their surroundings! The intricately carved stones on the left is a khachkar, or Armenian cross-stone, a unique and ancient Armenian art form.

What decisions did the artist make when composing this picture? Are the children in the photo all posed or is it more candid? What does this add to the photo?

Make or Do:

Create a portrait of your friends or family. How will their poses convey their personality?

Record your family's history through art or written stories. Ask your family members for a story from their past and create something that illustrates it.
Print and Drawing Study Center

The Print and Drawing Study Center is a hybrid gallery and research center. Some of FWMoA’s permanent collection works-on-paper are also stored in the cabinets and drawers that line the space. You will usually find a curated selection of works on display here and they’re often not behind glass. In the center of the room are tools and printmaking plates to help visitors learn a bit about the processes used to create the art in the museum. Currently on display is a selection of photographs from the permanent collection.

Notice the lighting in this room—why do you think it’s so dim? Artworks on paper are especially prone to fading under bright lights, which is why they are stored in dark cabinets or drawers when they’re not on display.

Think or Discuss:

Look for repetition in this photograph: are there shapes, lines, or colors that you see over and over? What effect does this have on the image?

Describe the different textures you see.

From what point-of-view are we seeing the scene? We call this a bird’s eye or aerial view. It’s like the roof has been removed from the house! How would this work change if the photographer stood in front of her subject?

Make or Do:

Choose a room in your home to draw from a bird’s eye view. Use repetition to unify your drawing. What story will you tell?

Further Resources:

The Print and Drawing Study Center is open (when the Museum is open) Tuesday-Friday from 10 am-3 pm, or by scheduling an appointment with Sachi by emailing sachi.yanari-izzo@fwmoa.org. If you’re visiting FWMoA with your students and would like to see artworks that relate your curriculum, Sachi may be able to help with sufficient notice!
Hidden Truths: New Paintings by Francisco Valverde

Francisco Valverde was born and raised in Cuernavaca, Mexico, to a Cuban father and Mexican mother. Early in his career he was known for his work in contemporary figurative painting.

Valverde began working on large canvases, using bottle dispensers filled with colorful synthetic materials to create his compositions instead of traditional paints and brushes. His goal was to re-create the essential element within drawing and painting: the line. These paintings formed a rhythmic structure in which a certain order was realized. This was the start of his new artistic direction.

Valverde’s current work utilizes plastic materials to build complexity. These paintings employ powerful lines with direction, suggestive backgrounds, mysterious forms, and varying depths to create a story. Obsession and freedom are two words that Valverde uses to describe his current work: specifically, the obsession of daily routine and the freedom he experimented with as a child.

Think or Discuss:

What shape is this canvas? Why do you think Valverde chose to work on this shape?

How many layers of resin can you see? In what order was this painted? Describe the visual relationship between the layers. What makes each stand out? Do they work together?

Why do you think this is called X? The letter “X” can also be a symbol—what does it make you think of?

Make or Do:

Create a work on a shaped surface and incorporate a symbol that sends a message. Either create your drawing or painting on a regular sheet of paper, then cut it into a shape, or start by cutting your paper into a shape, then drawing your image. Either way, use bright, contrasting colors to make your symbol stand out! What colors will you choose to help convey your message?

Further Resources:

Watch Francisco Valverde work: [https://vimeo.com/226528258](https://vimeo.com/226528258)

Francisco uses pigmented resin. Here is a how-to video showing different ways resin can be used in painting: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fKtNlepMgo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fKtNlepMgo) How do you think Valverde employs these methods in his work?
Here and Now: A Survey on New Contemporary Art

*Here and Now* showcases twelve artists whose work is representative of the New Contemporary movement, drawing from pop culture, music, street art, and craft and often using nontraditional materials.

Artists: Shepard Fairey, Swoon, GATZ, AJ Fosik, Michael Reeder, Dan Witz, Kris Kuksi, Ben Venom, Dennis McNett, Chis Martin, Kathryn Polk, Caitlin McCormack

![Image of art]

**Swoon**  
American b. 1977

**Neenee**  
Silkscreen and acrylic gouache on dyed cotton pulp paper (also made by the artist), 2018  
Courtesy of Hashimoto Gallery

Think or Discuss:

How does Swoon use scale (the size relationships between different objects) in this work?

What patterns can you find?

Tell a story using this work as the starting point: what happened before this scene? What will happen next?

Make or Do:

Ben Venom made his first quilt from his collection of band t-shirts. Kris Kuksi’s *Churchtank* was made from dollhouse furniture, parts of model kits, and other found objects. What can you repurpose from around your home to create something new? (Be sure you have permission to use the item first!) Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Collect labels, boxes, and other packaging to create a collage
- Transform toys that you no longer play with

Further Resources:

View a video tour of *Here and Now* narrated by Curator of Contemporary Art Josef Zimmerman  
[https://www.fwmoa.org/Exhibition/HereNow](https://www.fwmoa.org/Exhibition/HereNow)
Woolgatherers: New Paintings by Heather Day

Heather Day creates abstract paintings comprised of scraped, smeared, and flooded pools of pigment using her own visual language. Day’s work expands on that of 1960s post-war Abstract Expressionists like Helen Frankenthaler and fellow members of the New York School. Woolgatherers includes paintings on paper and large canvases, as well as a wall mural painted during a 4-day residency in the galleries. Day has synesthesia, which causes different senses to overlap; in her case, she associates color with sound, taste, and/or heightened emotion. The title of the exhibition refers to daydreaming or indulging in mindless repetitive tasks (like gathering wool!).

Think or Discuss:

This large painting is a diptych, meaning it’s one painting on two separate canvases. Why might Day have chosen to make the painting this way? Consider practical reasons like the size, but also think about how it would impact the way it’s painted—do you see places where she incorporated the “seam” and places where she ignored it?

The two diptychs in this exhibition were inspired by a sketchbook. When you’re using a sketchbook or notebook, do you ever ignore the center fold and draw over it? Why or why not?

Does this painting remind you of anything? Why? Does the title, Fever Dream, change your interpretation of it?

Notice the colors used and where they overlap. What new colors are created when thin layers overlap? Are there areas where the paint is thicker and you can’t see through it?

Make or Do:

Take a sketchbook or piece of paper and some drawing supplies outside! Spend a few minutes observing with your sense besides sight. What do you hear, feel, smell (maybe not taste!)? How can these experiences become marks on your paper?

Further resources:

Read an interview between Heather Day and the exhibition’s curator, Lauren Wolfer, on FWMoA’s blog at https://fwmoa.blog/2020/04/01/artist-interview-heather-day/

Listen to Heather discuss her work on The Artword Podcast: https://www.theartword.com/content/heather?fbclid=IwAR3hs1kasQhtBAintHOgfDQUzUwte6B7fwmYcYDbg_J1AVq5BYoQzRXR8jQ
2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. The works in this exhibition represent the best art and writing submitted by students in grades 7-12 from Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio.

Highlighted in the virtual tour:

First gallery: Gold Key artworks displayed. Highlighted works are National Medal artworks, as well as recordings of the five American Voices Nominees (be sure to click the gear in the upper right to turn narration on)

Second gallery: writing excerpts arranged by category, Silver Key and Honorable Mention Art from the categories of Drawing & Illustration, Printmaking, Fashion, Jewelry, Sculpture, Ceramics & Glass, and Mixed Media.

Third gallery: Silver Key and Honorable Mention Art from the categories of Painting, Photography, Design, Digital Art, Film & Animation, Sculpture, and Ceramics & Glass.

Think or Discuss:

With so much variety in the work here, which is your favorite? Which would you most like in your home? Why?

Make or Do:

Construct a cardboard sculpture like those below. Consider how your design can best use the material. Choose to create a freestanding sculpture (below left) or a relief sculpture (below center) designed to be seen from one side.

Paint with coffee like the artwork below and to the right. What other household materials could be used as art supplies?

Write! Find poetry inspiration from the awarded works featured on our blog here: https://fwmoa.blog/2020/04/22/national-poetry-month-the-next-generation-of-great-american-poets/

Featured works, from left:
Daydreamin’ by Jack Schuhmacher, Blood Red Roses by Amani Xayyachack, Lifeline by Sara Mueller

Further Resources:

Browse National Medal works from across the country: https://www.artandwriting.org/explore/online-galleries/

Will your work be included next year? Students in grades 7-12, ages 13 and up can enter the 2021 Awards starting on September 1 at artandwriting.org!