

General Gallery Guide

Focus Question(s):

- Read the introductory remarks for the exhibition (or for the room) and formulate a focus question together.

In the galleries:

- Discuss what proper gallery etiquette looks like. For us, we take time at the first painting to talk about how close our feet (and hands) should be from each painting. Our voices are just above a whisper and we walk slowly.
- Stand in front of a piece for 1-5 minutes straight. Use questions from the “Slow Looking in the Gallery” guide to help lead your observations.
- Observe up close. Look from far away. What is the same? What is different?
- Stand in front of a piece with someone else and take turns naming things (objects, colors, shapes, etc.) that you see until you run out of things.
- Take photos (where allowed) or make sketches to discuss later.
- Play “I spy” in a room or in a single painting.
- Choose a painting and create a story with what you see.
- What was your favorite piece in the room? Why?

Follow-Up Activities/Discussion:

- Take some time to discuss the answer(s) to your focus question.
- Recreate a drawing/painting you saw.
- Watch a film about the artist(s) that you saw.
- Discuss: How did the background of the artist feed into his/her work?
- Tell a story based on a work of art you experienced.
- Create a collage using magazines based on what you saw.
- Create a trailer or poster advertising the exhibition.
- If they are still alive, write a letter to the artist thanking them for their work and describing which pieces/pieces most impressed them, got them thinking, etc.
- Research the life of the artist and present your findings in the form of a presentation, poem, story, or discussion.