

Notice, Imagine, Create, Connect

Activities for Wonder Anywhere



CMOA

Columbus
Museum of Art

Notice, Think, Wonder at CMA

Find an artwork that stands out to you – you are going to spend several minutes with it.

Notice: Look at the art silently (**without reading the label**) for 30 seconds. Hint: To discover details “zoom-in” on just one section, like you are looking through a telescope. Move your eyes around the art this way. Then “zoom-out” and look at the whole thing. Share your observations with others in your group.

Think: What do you imagine is happening? What may have happened before and what might happen next? What could different shapes, symbols, and colors mean? What did you notice that makes you think so?

Wonder: What questions do you have about this work of art? If you could talk to the artist, what would you ask? If you could talk to the artwork itself, what would you ask?

Notice, Think, and Wonder at home

Use the Notice-Think-Wonder steps above to observe, interpret, and get curious about:

- An object in nature (like a dandelion) or in your home (like old jewelry or an unusual tool)
- Something made by someone you know (like a drawing by a sibling or a scarf by your uncle)
- A familiar walk (like from your door to your mailbox or a sidewalk you pass along daily)

Tips for noticing:

- Try drawing an object to observe more closely
- Catalog everything you see, including little parts that make up larger parts
- Some things are more interesting when you take them apart (like a cookie, a pen, or a broken toy). Ask a grown-up if you it is safe to take your object apart.

Reflection:

What was beautiful and interesting about what you examined? What did you notice that surprised you? What did you learn by looking in this slow, careful way? What would you want to know more about?



Notice, Connect, Create at CMA

Find an artwork that is interesting to you. Make yourself comfortable; use nearby seating or a table, grab a gallery stool, or sit on the floor.

Look closely (use the Notice, Think, Wonder steps). What do you notice? Share lots of observations with others in your group.

How can you connect the art to yourself (the who, where, and when of you)? Are there any surprising connections?

Pick one element that connects you and the artwork. Use the basic supplies provided to create something that represents that connection. Share your thought process with others in your group.

Notice, Connect, Create at Home

Draw a map of how you connect to at least ten different people or places (real or imagined). Experiment with different types of lines, colors, and symbols to represent the connections. How strong is this connection? How could you represent your feelings toward this person or place? Be as straightforward or fanciful as you like.

Go outside and use sidewalk chalk or natural items (like sticks, leaves, and rocks) to create bridges, roads, or other types of connections between things you find like weeds, cracks, fallen objects, and signposts.

Collage a postcard and send it to someone. In the card, ask them to write a postcard to someone else and keep the chain going.

Play-cation at CMA

Find an artwork that looks like a place you would want to visit. Look and notice different details of this place.

Imagine stepping inside the scene. What sounds do you hear? What smells and tastes would you encounter? How does the air feel on your skin? What activities would you do here, and why?

Play-cation at home

Find a photo in a magazine, book, or junk-mail. Imagine it is a scene in your vacation. Create a story about what it is like here.

Cut out a person from a magazine or junk-mail and glue it to a piece of paper. Draw one element of a vacation this person might be taking. Without explaining your idea, ask someone else you know to add an element to the scene. Keep rotating the drawing between different people (without sharing ideas) until the paper is full. Now look at the new, collaborative scene. What do you think the story is?

Gather some friends or family and lead them on a tour of your home, imagining that it is a scenic destination and that they are sight-seeing tourists. Make up outlandish stories about your everyday spaces.

At CMA, creativity is the process of using imagination and critical thinking to create new ideas that have value.

How will you create today?

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