January 31, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Bugs

Explore the Museum in search of insects in paintings, sculptures, and even jewelry! Activity: Create a colorful butterfly mirror print with paint on paper. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Impasto Painting

Brushes are most often used by artists to create paintings, but what other tools do they use? Search for clues and discover how some of the paintings in the Museum's collection were made. The answer might surprise you!

Activity: Create an impasto painting on canvas using palette knives, paint, and modeling paste. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Cave Art

Uncover the past and learn about the very beginning of art history while taking a closer look at some of the Museum's oldest works of art.

Activity: Create your own version of a cave painting using chalk, charcoal, and paint. Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Moving Masks

Learn about the multimedia performance art tradition of masquerade while taking a closer look at masks most often paired with dance from African and other examples of striking masks that move from Oceania.

Activity: Create a mask embellished to reward movement using feathers, beads, and cardboard. Instructor: Gianna Stewart

February 7, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Color

Explore the galleries in search of paintings that were painted with a lot of warm and cool colors. Learn about primary and secondary colors while taking a closer look at the color wheel and discover how they can be mixed to make new ones!

Activity: Mix primary and secondary colors to create a painting on canvas.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead

Learn about ancient Egyptian burial rituals while taking a closer look at objects in the Museum's collection.

Activity: Draw your own version of a page from the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead using parchment paper and India ink.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Egypt and the Afterlife

Discover how and why mummies were made while thinking about their significance in ancient Egyptian culture.

Activity: Create a tooled metal mummy mask.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Color Theory

Embrace the expressive works created by artists such as Hyman Bloom, Katharina Groose, and Jackson Pollock and discover how each artist approached the use of color. What color themes and relationships can be found in these works that relate to a color wheel?

Activity: Create a painting using a color wheel palette.

February 14, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Boats

All aboard! Join us on a voyage through the galleries as we search for boats and think about how they help us travel from place to place.

Activity: Use watercolors to paint a seascape and add your own paper boat. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

How Mirrors Work

How do mirrors work, and what is a reflection? Find out while taking a closer look at examples of mirrored objects in the Museum's collection.

Activity: Create a mirror using metal foil and clear acrylic.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Asian Art Highlights

The Museum's rich collection of Asian art spans from the Bronze Age to the present day. Explore how technological innovations have shaped Asian art found in different countries as well as the influence of Buddhism in art.

Activity: Paint a scroll using Sumi ink and stamp it with your carved signature seal. Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Ridiculously Rococo

Featuring over-the-top ornamentation, undulating nature motifs, and excessive theatrics, the Rococo style was anything but subtle. In the galleries find Rococo examples such as furniture, candlestick, and murals.

Activity: Rococo-inspired cut paper pop-up cards using colorful paper, exacto knives, and scissors.

February 28, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Sculptures

Explore the galleries in search of sculptures BIG and small. Discover some of the techniques,

materials, and tools artists used to create each one.

Activity: Use colorful wire, beads, and recycled materials to create your own unique sculpture. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Archeology and Art

How did the ancient objects in the Museum make it here? Learn about the people who found

them and what we can learn about the past through close observation.

Activity: Create a travel notebook and use it to record your observations of ancient objects. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Sacred Containers

Discover how containers in the Museum's collection provide clues to what they once contained and are often treasures themselves!

Activity: Design your own wooden treasure box.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Women Take The Floor

Explore the bold installations by women artists of recent history.

Activity: Collaborative yarn installation inspired by the works of Sheila Hicks.

March 6, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Shapes

Name that shape! Learn how shapes are fundamental to understanding forms and images in artwork while exploring and identifying the shapes seen in a variety of works from the Museum's collection.

Activity: Use a variety of shapes to create a self-portrait inspired by Picasso's paintings. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Texture

Texture is one of the elements of art. Even though most of the objects in the Museum cannot be touched a lot can be discovered by taking a close look. Do different materials have different textures?

Activity: Use masa paper to create a paper cast of a textured surface. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Art of Celebration

Explore how different cultures celebrate festivals, holidays, and special occasions. Discover what can be learned about a culture by the way they celebrate while taking a look at works of art used for celebrations.

Activity: Sand art inspired by Indian Rangoli.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

"Read My Lips"

Take a closer look at video art on view in the "Women Take the Floor" exhibition that considers the female voice.

Activity: Create video art using iPads.

March 13, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Gold!

Appreciate the shining, shimmering, splendor that is gold. Join us in the galleries as we discover how gold has embellished art throughout the ages.

Activity Emboss a design onto your own golden medallion!

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Pinch Pot Animals

Take a closer look at artwork sculpted out of clay found in the Museum's collection. Learn hand-building techniques including slip-and-score, pinch pots, and modeling to create your own clay animal.

Activity: Create an animal out of clay using a variety of sculpting techniques. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Heroes and Villains

Discover how artists can tell stories without saying a word. Take a closer look at the heroes and villains depicted in art from around the world and learn the stories behind them.

Activity: Use mixed media to craft a puppet of a hero or villain from your imagination.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Freud

Take a closer look at self-portraits created by the renowned British figurative painter Lucian Freud as well as other works made by artists who informed the genre before him. Activity: Learn about the proportions of your face while using a mirror to paint your own self

portrait on canvas.

March 20, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Faces

Are they happy or sad? Discover how artists portray faces and emotions through their art while taking a closer look at examples on view in the galleries.

Activity: Create a relief sculpture of a face with facial expressions.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Self Portraits

Take a closer look at how artists use art as a means of expressing their own individuality through self portraits.

Activity: Use pencils to sketch a black and white self portrait with a colorful watercolor background that expresses who you are.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Miniatures

Shrink your expectations of art and explore some of the tiniest works of art in the Museum's collection. Gaze at pocket sized paintings, coins, and an ornate Dutch dollhouse.

Activity: Create a miniature diorama.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Wool & Watercolor: Contemporary Art 5 Props

Explore the themes of artistic process, complex relationships between humans and the natural world, the body, materials, identity, and notions of utopica while taking a closer look at works created by artists Lucy Dodd and Cecila Vicoña.

Activity: Create a work of art using wool roving and watercolors.

March 27, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Egypt

Explore the art of ancient Egypt and learn about some of the beautiful artifacts from this culture. Activity: Sculpt a miniature sarcophagus out of clay.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Powered by the Wind

Get blown away while learning about the importance of wind power! Take a closer look at artwork that was created to move.

Activity: Create a sculpture out of metal and wood that can move in the breeze. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Terrific Textiles

Explore form, color, and texture through a variety of techniques and dazzling materials. Learn about fibers and some of the techniques artists use to craft them into beautiful and functional works of art.

Activity: Sew a felt monster stuffed animal.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Dutch Still Lifes

Trace the origins of still life throughout history while taking a closer look at Dutch still life paintings. In the studio: work together to create collaborative still life scenes, then illustrate from different vantage points.

Activity: Create a collaborative still life scene and then draw it.

April 3, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Fruit

Take a closer look at how the delicious and nutritious fruit we eat is portrayed in artwork from the Museum's collection. Learn about a variety of different fruits while creating your own fruit-inspired art.

Activity: Create prints using cut fruit.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Additive and Subtractive Sculpture Techniques

Learn about traditional sculpture techniques while taking a closer look at examples of additive and subtractive sculptures. What are the differences and similarities?

Activity: Create a subtractive tile with low, medium, and high relief elements.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Cities

Explore the galleries in search of cities portrayed in artwork from the Museum's collection, while discussing the similarities and differences and what they might look like in the future. How might they might need to be designed in order to create a better world?

Activity: Create city prints using warm and cool colors.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Arts of Islamic Cultures

From a remarkable door made for the first American World's Fair to Wasama'a Chrbachi's calligraphic ceramics, take a closer look at some of the exquisite details found in artwork on view in the Arts of Islamic Cultures Gallery.

Activity: Painted ceramic tiles.

April 17, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Animals

Join us on a safari to find elephants, horses, birds, and many more exciting creatures! How many animals can you find?

Activity: Create a mask of an animal using colorful paper and mixed media. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Native American Leatherworking

Why is leather such an important material for Native American artists? Explore examples of artwork made out of leather as inspiration for your own unique work of art. Activity: Create a project inspired by traditional leather-working techniques. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Graffiti

Take a closer look at "Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation" exhibition. Learn the history of the post-graffiti movement in 1908's New York City, which marked the transition of street art from city walls and subway trains onto canvas and into the art world. Activity: Create a name board that expresses who you are using acrylic paint markers and wood.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Marvelous Millinery

Hats! Who makes them? Who wears them? Discover how the style of a hat can tell us a little more about the person wearing it.

Activity: Design a hat that perfectly embodies your style and personality using felt, feathers, ribbon, and mixed media.

May 8, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Design

What is a Design? Discover what you can learn about wearable art by taking a closer look at how something is made.

Activity: Create wearable art based on your own unique design.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Paintings Inspired by Basquiat

Learn more about how the artist Jean-Michael Basquiat was inspired by graffiti while taking a closer look at paintings on view in "Writing the Future: Jean-Michael Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation."

Activity: Create a mixed-media painting inspired by Basquiat and his contemporaries. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Things With Wings

Discover the textures, patterns, and materials used to describe and portray images of insects and birds in art. Take a closer look at some examples found in the Museum's collection while thinking about their artistic and symbolic significance.

Activity: Painted paper collage.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

The Frame

Did you know? Frames are art, too! Take a closer look at examples on view in the galleries from sleek to the orante. In the workshop studio make your own frame embellished with gold leaf. Activity: Use sizing glue to adhere thin gold leaf sheets over your own embellished frame. Instructor: Gianna Stewart

May 29, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Mountains

Learn about foreground and background while discovering how artists depict some of the tallest locations in their art. What does the view look like from a mountain peak?

Activity: Create your own mountainous scene using collage overlay on clear Dura-Lar sheets to create a sense of depth with a foreground and background.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Containers and the Things They Might Contain

Open up your imagination as you discover the intricate containers that are in the Museum's collection. What do you think they once contained?

Activity: Use mixed media to create a treasure box inspired by Kunstkammer cabinets of curiosity.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Creatures of the Sea

Explore the galleries in search of animals found in the ocean.

Activity: Create fish-shaped windsocks inspired by Japanese koinobori.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Ink Painting

Take a closer look at the "Weng Family Collection of Chinese Painting: Family and Friends"

exhibition–paintings and calligraphy created by some of the greatest masters from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Activity: Sumi ink painting on rice paper.

June 5, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Exploration

Grab your walking shoes and sense of adventure! Join us as we explore the galleries to find exciting new places far and near.

Activity: Create a scroll map of an imaginary or real place using antiqued paper, ink, and drawing materials.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Feeling at Home: Period Rooms

Travel back through time while visiting rooms from historic New England homes How has interior decoration changed through time?

Activity: Create a 3-D diorama of your own room.

Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Sailing through the MFA

Anchors aweigh! Adventure through the galleries to discover stories behind some of the most land-loving paintings and models of large ships and small boats on view in the galleries. Activity: Build your own model ship using wood pieces and mixed media. Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Benin Bronzes

Take a closer look at bronze altarpieces, palace plaques, and regalia from the Kingdom of Benin, located in present-day Nigeria.

Activity: Create a plaster cast of your own.

June 12, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Flower Gardens

Wander through the galleries in search of flowers both real and imaginary. What type of plants would you put in your own flower garden?

Activity: Create a "stained glass" flower garden picture to hang in your window at home. Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Musical Instruments throughout the Ages

Explore examples of musical instruments from the ancient world to today. Can you imagine what Activity: Create your own percussion instrument from new and recycled materials. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Lotus, Plum, and Cherry Blossoms

Discover the symbolism and importance of cherry, plum, and lotus blossoms in Asian cultures while taking a closer look at some of the artwork on view in the galleries.

Activity: Create cherry blossom vases using air-dry clay.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Southeast Asia

Observe ancient works from Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Activity: Create a small sculpture inspired by one of the works in the galleries using gold foil, scissors, wire, and wire tools.

June 19, 2020, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ages 3–5

Buildings

What is a building and how do you make one? Discover the similarities and differences of buildings and homes from around the world while taking a closer look at artwork found in the Museum's collections.

Activity: Paint wooden blocks to construct your own small town or city.

Instructors: Alanna Woodlock and Antonio Mendéz

Ages 6–8

Geometry in Islamic Designs

What is geometry, and how has it been used in art from Islamic cultures? Explore examples from the Museum's collection while learning about repeating geometric designs. Activity: Use geometry to create a mirrored design inspired by Islamic art. Instructors: Sarah Pollman and Molly Lamb

Ages 9–11

Outdoor Sculpture

Weather permitting: Explore some of the sculptures and public art found outside on the Museum's grounds and in Tenshin-en, the Japanese garden.

Activity: Use colorful tape to create a collaborative large-scale mural in the studio.

Instructor: Barrett Grizzard

Teens

Ancient Americas

Take a closer look at objects from a variety of ancient cultures including classic Maya earthenware and a cylinder vase inscribed with hieroglyphic texts.

Activity: Explore slab and coil clay construction while learning hand building techniques to create your own red clay vessel.