

Your Art Journey

Lines, Shapes, Colors

JourneyMaker

The activities in this packet are meant to be enjoyed together with friends or family.

Be sure to invite someone to take your art journey with you!

Are you using JourneyMaker from home?

While some of the activities are written for use in the museum, get creative and look for other objects in your home or immediate surroundings that could help you complete the prompts.

If you have access to a phone, tablet, or computer, you can find high-quality images of artworks on the Art Institute of Chicago's website at artic.edu/collection.

You can also access JourneyMaker online at artic.edu/journeymaker.

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Making Marks

Dots, dashes, loops, and lines. Artists make many different marks.

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Brice Marden
Study for the Muses (Eaglesmere Version)
1991–1994/1997–99

Gift of Edlis Neeson Collection

Pick a line in the artwork and see if you can pose like it. Imagine that the line can move. Is it fast or slow? How does its shape change? Move your body to show this movement.

LOOK AGAIN: The lines in this painting loop and layer over one another. Where do they begin and where do they end?

Use this space to draw your line:

Mixing Colors



Choosing which colors to use is an important part of making art.



Jacob Lawrence
The Wedding
1948

Restricted gift of Mary P. Hines in memory of her mother, Frances W. Pick

Imagine that the colors in this artwork have a smell—are they sweet or sour? Take turns identifying a color, giving it a name, and sharing what it might smell like.

LOOK AGAIN: In this busy and bright wedding scene, where does your eye go first—to the people, stained glass, or bright flowers?

Use this space to identify your colors, names, and smells:



Beautiful Blobs

These shapes seem to ooze in place.



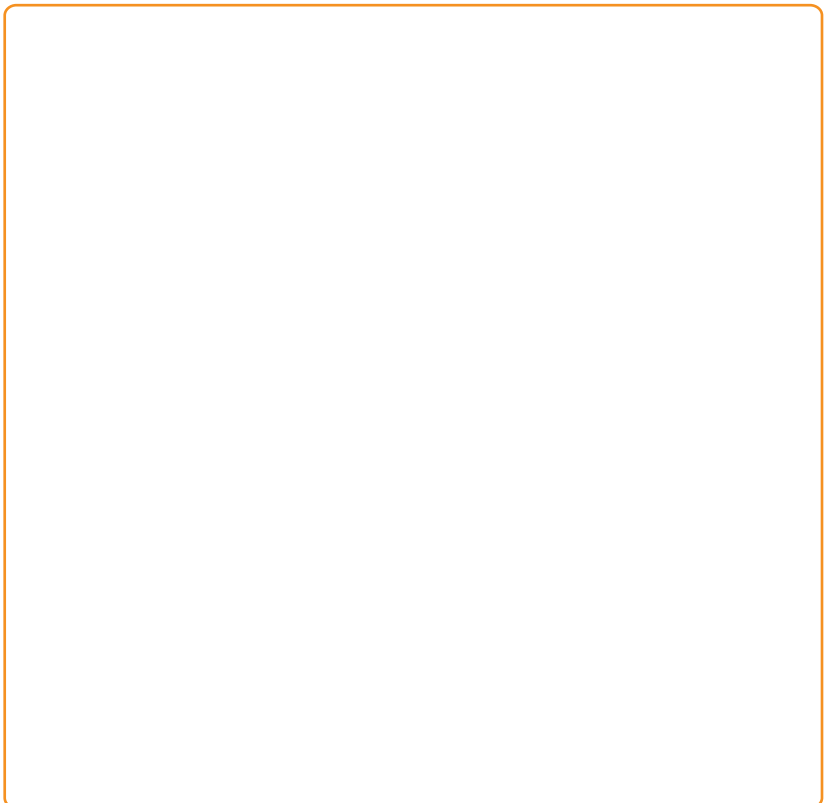
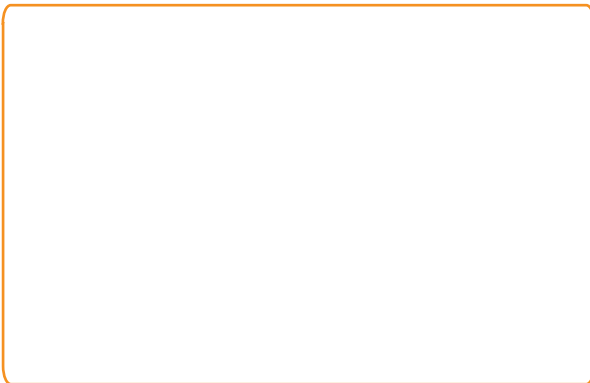
Charles Green Shaw
Relief
1937

Through prior acquisition of the George F. Harding Collection

Draw the same shape three times in the boxes below. Take turns adding marks to create something new from the original shape.

LOOK AGAIN: This artwork is both a painting and a sculpture. What do you see when you look at the organic shapes?

Use this space to draw your shapes:



Taking Shape

Finding shapes in art is easy—they're everywhere!



Arched pendant
Longshan culture or early Shang period
1600–1045 BCE
China

Edward and Louise B. Sonnenschein Collection

Find an object that has a similar shape to this curved pendant. How would these shapes talk to one another? What would they say?

LOOK AGAIN: This pendant is made from a hard stone called jade. Ancient Chinese people valued jade for its beauty and protective powers.

Use this space to write down your conversations:

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin green border, intended for students to write their observations and conversations about the pendant's shape.

Terrific Textures



This decorated basket has lots of clues to help us imagine what it feels like.



Feathered Gift Basket
1915/20
Pomo; Northern California,
United States

Major Acquisitions Fund

How can a simple pencil drawing show texture? Draw lines going in different directions. Experiment by holding the pencil in different ways in order to draw with all sides of the lead.

LOOK AGAIN: Baskets like this one usually include about 30 to 50 feathers per inch. They can take months, or even years, to make!

Use this space to draw your textures:

