



COLOR PERSONALITIES

This activity helps you practice close looking and describing what you see.

Are you doing this activity at school or at home?

Follow these suggestions to make your experience fun and successful.

- Search for images of artworks on the Art Institute of Chicago's website: www.artic.edu/collection or look for other objects around you that could help you complete the activity.
- Work together with classmates, family members, or friends to complete the activity and share what you create.

While standing in front of a work of art, close your eyes and think of your favorite color. Then open your eyes and look at the artwork to answer these prompts:

Where do you see your favorite color? Look closely at the:

- foreground, middle ground, and/or background
- people, details, and/or space shown in the image

Trace with your eye (or in the air with your finger) every place you see your color.

Is your color a warm color or a cool color?

- warm colors: red, yellow, orange
- cool colors: blue, green, purple

Where else do you see warm and cool colors in the artwork? What do these colors remind you of? What moods or feelings do they suggest?

Does your color jump out at you, or does it stay in the back?

Without saying what your color is, describe to a small group or to the class where you see your color and what job it is doing in the painting. Can your classmates guess what color you're thinking of? Try to be as descriptive as possible. See example below.

EXAMPLE:

My color is bold and bright and might be the first one you see. My color makes my eye jump all over the painting, because it highlights the snow and trees and is the color of a scarf and some children's hair.

ARTWORK SUGGESTIONS:

George Wesley Bellows, (American, 1882–1925)
Love of Winter, 1914
1914.1018

Joan Mitchell, (American, 1925–1992)
City Landscape, 1955
1958.193

Archibald Motley (American, 1891–1981)
Nightlife, 1943
1992.89

Maurice de Vlaminck (French, 1876–1958)
House at Chatou, 1905
1951.19