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HAMMER MUSEUM

# DISCOVERY GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you make meaningful connections to artworks of your own choosing. Pick a place in the museum that interests you, and use the prompts to discover more about art.

EXPLORER'S SELF-PORTRAIT:



EXPLORER'S NAME:

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DATE/TIME:

- - 2 0 /

AM

PM

NOTES:

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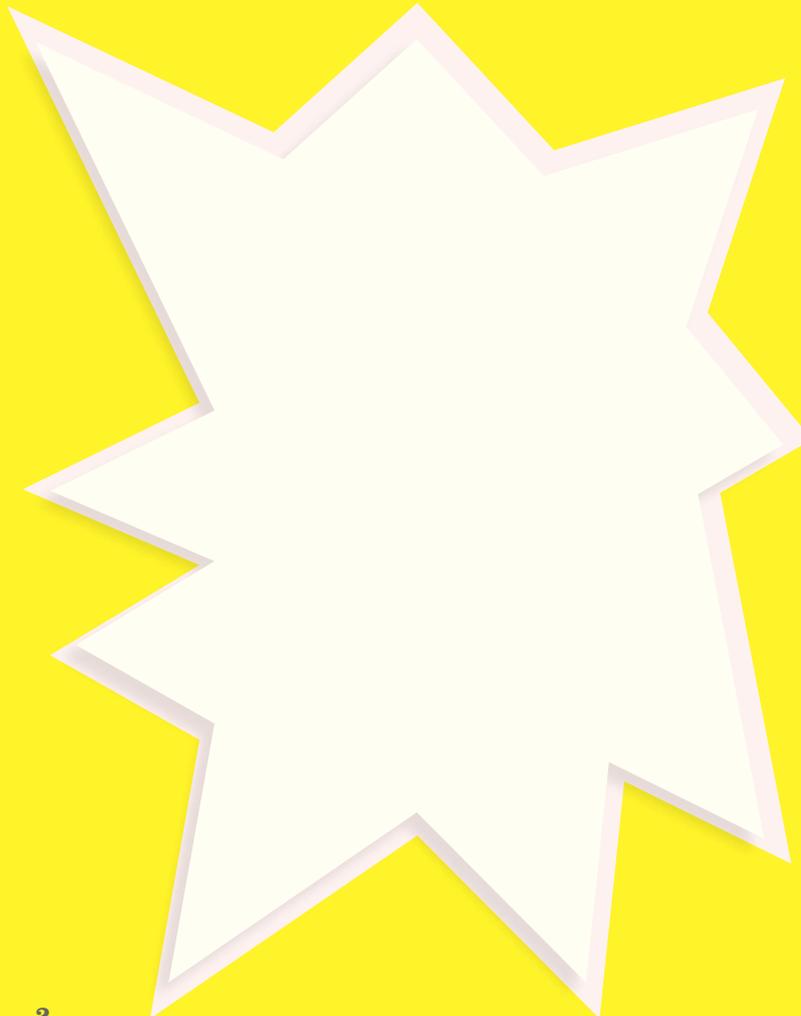
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# ...SURPRISED ME

Much of the art you'll see in the Hammer Museum is contemporary art. Contemporary art can often be surprising, because artists like to push the boundaries of our expectations. Art can make noise, move, or change over time.

What exactly surprised you about this work of art?  
Write your answer below:



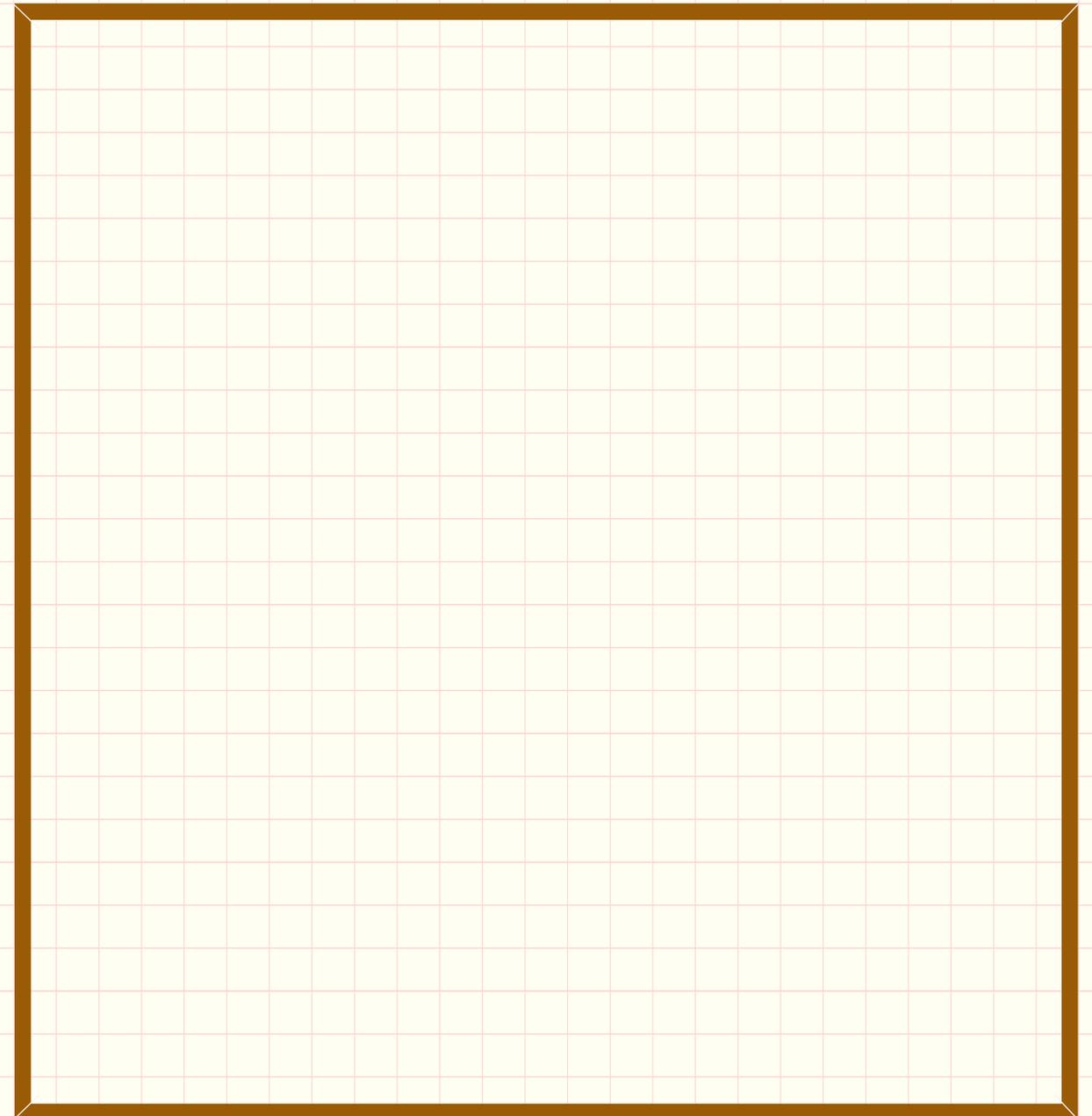
**contemporary art:**  
made by artists  
living today

One way that contemporary artists surprise viewers is by using **unexpected materials** to create art.

Traditionally artists used materials like oil paint or pencil to make artworks. But today art can be made from anything at all...**paint, candies, recycled materials, film**, even **the artist's very own body** (in performance art, for example).



Find a work of art that is made with materials that surprised you. Why do you think the artist chose those materials? Think of a material that you haven't seen used in an artwork before. **Draw a picture below showing how you would create art with that material:**



# ...CONFUSED ME

Sometimes it helps to know what the artist was interested in exploring while creating an artwork. Here are a few things that artists think about throughout their process:

## COLOR

Color sometimes expresses a mood or an emotion. Red, for example, could mean love. Yellow could represent happiness.

What color(s) do you see? Does the work have an interesting color? (It doesn't have to be colorful.) What mood or emotion do you think is expressed in the work?

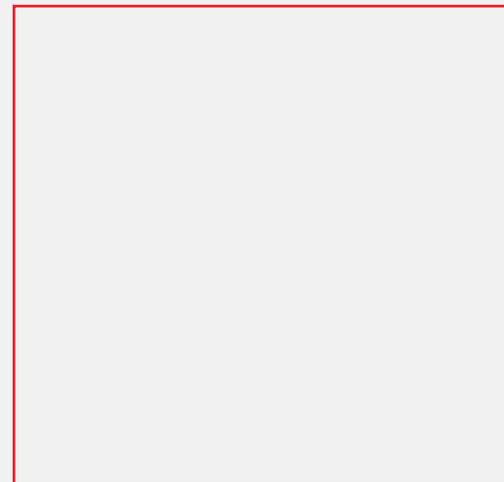
- EXCITEMENT
- LONELINESS
- CALM
- FRUSTRATION
- BOREDOM
- OTHER:

Do you think color is important to this artwork as a whole?

## LINE

Artists can use lines to convey texture or movement. Smooth, wavy lines can make something appear soft or calm. Jagged lines have a lot of energy.

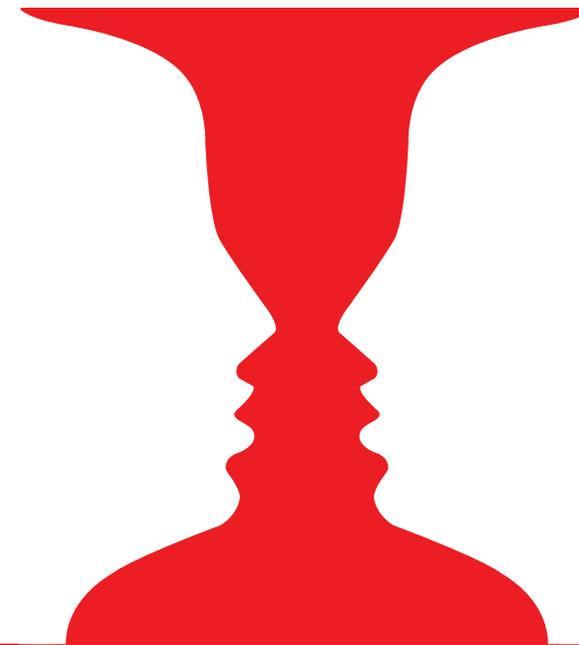
Walk in a smooth, wavy line. Now walk in a jagged line. How do you feel when you walk in these different ways? What types of lines do you see in the artwork? Draw them below.



## SPACE

Your bedroom is a kind of space: everything around you is arranged in a certain way. In art, space works similarly. When creating art, artists consider how they are going to use positive space, areas of an artwork that are filled with something, such as lines and colors. They also consider negative space, areas around and between things in an artwork.

How did the artist use positive space and negative space?



What else do you think the artist was interested in exploring?

Write down your ideas and explain why you think so.

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## ARE YOU LESS CONFUSED?

What do you understand now that didn't make sense before?

# ...IS BEAUTIFUL

Everyone defines beauty in a different way. How do you define beauty? In the left thought bubble below, write down some things that you think are beautiful. Talk to the person or people with you about their definitions of beauty. Write what they think is beautiful in the right thought bubble.

**I THINK** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **ARE BEAUTIFUL.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **THINKS**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **ARE BEAUTIFUL.**

Did any of these words surprise you? Why do people have different definitions of beauty?

What is beautiful about the artwork that you found?

**Circle the words above that you think describe the work.**

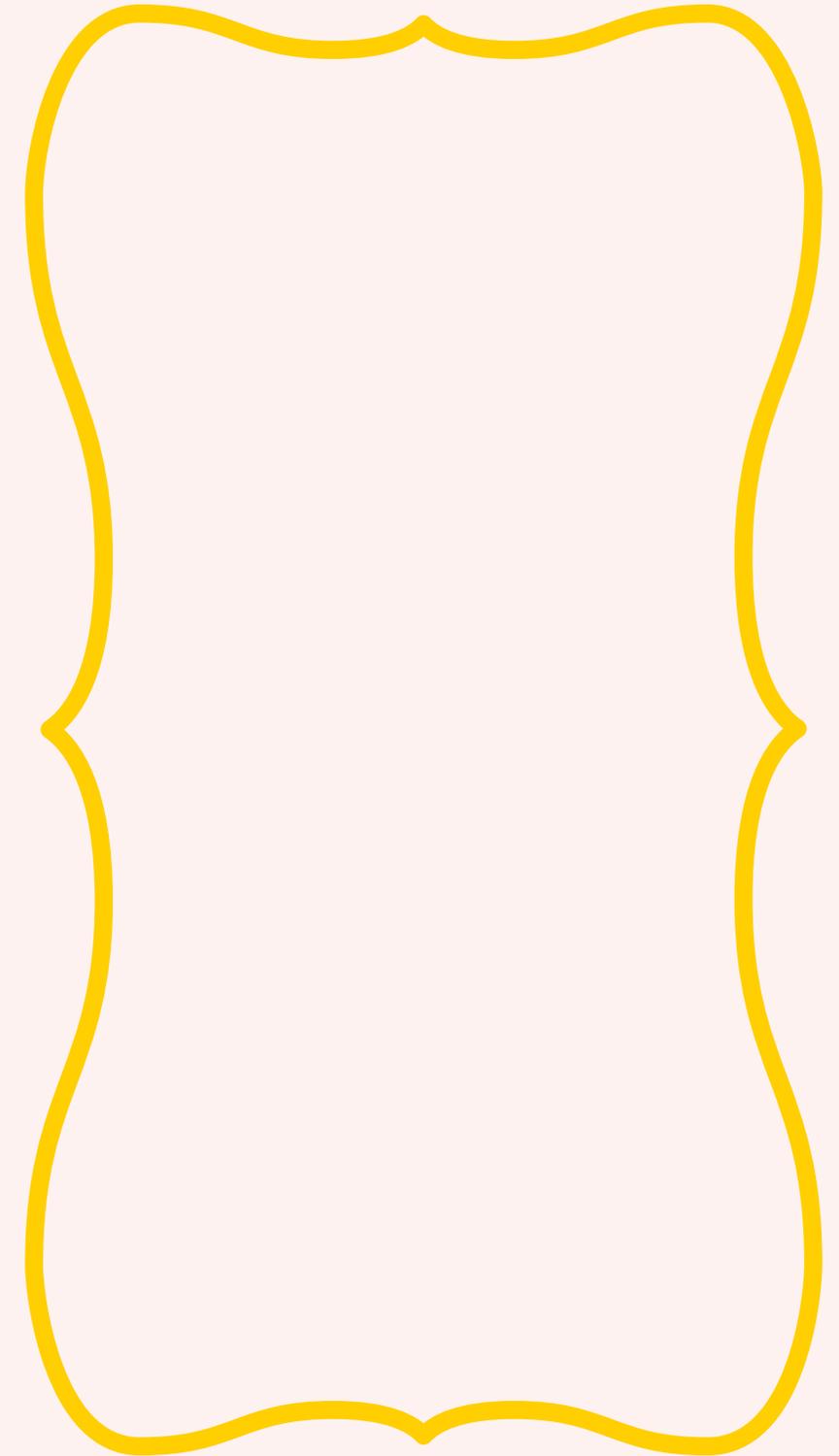
Some artists explore what is beautiful about the world. Others explore what is ugly. Find a work of art that you think is ugly or the opposite of beautiful.

Why did you choose it?

Do you think art can be about ugly things—like hate and violence—but still be beautiful?

**Draw something that bothers you in your own life or in the world.**

**You can choose to make it as beautiful or ugly as you want.**



# ...INSPIRED ME

Artists can explore topics that deeply affect people's lives, like hunger, illness, war, and inequality. In what ways did the artist inspire you to think about the lives of others? Give a trophy to the artist for inspiring you.



The Hammer Museum believes in the promise of art and ideas to illuminate our lives and build a more just world.

What comes to mind when you think of the word *just*?

How can a work of art help to build a more just world? Think about the work of art you selected. What does this work of art inspire you to do to build a more just world?

→ **just:**  
when something is handled in a fair way.

The word *just* makes me think of...

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I can help to build a more just world by...

TASK #1

TASK #2

TASK #3

# ...I RELATE TO

Does the work remind you of any stories from your life, give you any new ideas, make you feel certain emotions, or remind you of a place? Draw or write about how you relate to the work in one of the boxes, then find three more works that you relate to.



## STORY

THIS ARTWORK REMINDS  
ME OF THE TIME I...



## IDEA

THIS ARTWORK MADE  
ME REALIZE THAT...



## PLACE

THIS ARTWORK REMINDS  
ME OF A PLACE WHERE...



## EMOTION

THIS ARTWORK MAKES  
ME FEEL...

# ...I WOULD SHARE

WOULD I PUT THIS IN MY HOUSE?

YES     NO     I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

WOULD I GIVE IT TO A FRIEND AS A GIFT?

YES     NO     I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

If you have a camera with you and it's OK to photograph the artwork take a snapshot of the work to share with others.

What would you like to share about the work? What are you wondering about the work or the artist who made it? Write your questions in the boxes below.

Ask a Hammer staff member if you're not sure

QUESTION 1

QUESTION 2

Can you answer your own questions by looking more closely at the work or doing research on the internet?

We hope you enjoy your time at the Hammer. Post your snapshot of the artwork you want to share and include what you learned about it on social media.

#HammerSnapshot  |  hammer\_museum

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## **HAMMER** MUSEUM

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ALL HAMMER EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS ARE FREE. Entry on a first come, first served basis. Members enjoy priority seating, subject to availability. Parking is available under the museum for a flat fee of \$3 after 6PM.