**COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY WELL-PREPARED FOR ART MUSEUM ADVENTURES...**

If this is your family’s first visit to the museum or you haven’t visited us in awhile, take a moment to read this page together.

**How much time does it take to visit the museum?**

Spend as much or as little time as you’d like, but the best way to plan the length of your visit is to estimate the attention span of the children in your group. Most families find the most enjoyable and enriching visits are those spent focusing on just a few artworks instead of trying to see everything. Pre-K and Kindergarten age children are generally satisfied with half an hour in the galleries. Older children may want to spend a little more time. Break up the visit with stops to the museum store and café or check to see if there are special hands-on art activities offered at the museum. The best way to foster art appreciation in younger children is to wrap up visits before they get too fidgety. Leave them wanting more so that every visit to the museum is a treat!

**Can we touch the artworks?**

No. It might be hard to resist touching some of the artworks, but even the gentlest touch can cause damage that might not be immediately visible. The dirt and oils on your hands can harm the surface of artworks. Imagine what could happen to an artwork if every visitor touched it! Some artworks sit right on the gallery floors. By taking your time moving from piece to piece, you’ll help protect artworks from accidental bumps. Help us to ensure that future visitors will enjoy these artworks by trying to stay at least a foot away.

**Can we talk in the galleries?**

YES! We encourage you to share ideas and observations about the artworks. Please remember, some visitors prefer to quietly enjoy the artworks so it’s nice to keep voices low when other visitors are near.

**Can we write or draw in the galleries?**

Yes, but with pencils only, please.

**Can we take photographs?**

No photography is allowed in the museum’s galleries but you can take pictures in the lobby, café and other public areas.

**How much do the artworks cost?**

A great work of art is valuable for many reasons in addition to the amount of money its worth. The museum treats every artwork in its collection as a priceless treasure.

**How can we find out more information about the artwork?**

In addition to the variety of gallery guides that are available at the reception desk, you can read the wall labels near each work of art on display. These labels give you basic information about the works and often some interesting facts or history connected to the works. Labels tell you...

- The artist’s name, birth year and birthplace, where he or she lives, or the year and place he or she died
- The artwork’s title and the year it was made
- The materials used in the work’s creation
- Who the work belongs to and was how it was acquired
- The accession number that tells when the work became part of the museum’s collection. For example 1982.14 means that piece was the 14th object acquired in the year 1982.

**Why are there guards in the galleries?**

Museum guards make sure that all no one accidentally harms the artworks and that all visitors can safely enjoy them. They can help direct you to places in the museum if you are having trouble finding your way. Sometimes, they can help answer questions about the artworks.

**Is every object in the museum’s collection on display?**

No. The museum currently has more than 4000 objects in its collection. Even our new galleries don’t have enough room to let us show them all. There are around 150 objects from the collection on display right now. The rest of the objects are carefully kept in special storage areas until the museum staff decides to change what’s on view.
Water Works

Akron Art Museum's Family Art Adventure

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Welcome to the Akron Art Museum!

Hi, my name is Nimby! I’m a cloud that you can find hovering around the Akron Art Museum. I’d like to show you around the museum today! If this is your family’s first visit, turn to the back cover for answers to common questions that will help prepare you for museum adventures! Before we start looking at the art inside of the museum, let’s check out the building...

The museum's design is a giant work of art! You can spend a lot of time exploring the building’s big open spaces, nooks and crannies. If you want to learn more about the building, ask for the Amazing Architecture family guide at the visitor services desk.

When you enter the museum, you are walking into the Knight Building’s “Crystal” lobby, also known as the McDowell Grand Lobby. Here, you will find some neat architectural features, a few artworks, the visitor services desk, Museum Store and café, locker and coatroom areas and restrooms. Ride the zigzagging elevator or walk up the grand staircase to enter the galleries where most of the artwork is displayed.

The Haslinger Galleries contain newer artworks from the museum’s collection that were made between 1950 and right now. In the Bidwell, Isroff and Arnstein Galleries you will find special exhibitions that change regularly. Be sure to ask a museum employee about exciting new exhibitions coming soon!

In the 1899 Building you will find the McDowell Galleries and the Corbin Gallery. Collection works created before 1950 live in the McDowell Galleries. Corbin Gallery exhibitions are family-friendly, community-centered and change a few times each year. Near the Corbin Gallery you’ll find the museum’s library and on the Lower Level, the classroom and restrooms.

Now that you’ve learned a little bit about this exciting building, join me and my cloud friends in a hide-and-seek scavenger hunt! They’re hiding in one of the museum’s animal-inspired artworks.
Are you ready to play?

Super! Go to Haslinger Gallery 📍 on the museum map.

Find the artwork on this page and take your time studying it, but don’t peek at the wall label, yet!

**Start Here!**

A pattern is a repeated color, shape or design. Sometimes artists use patterns to decorate their artworks. Artists also use patterns to share ideas or create feelings in their works.

**Talk about it:**

**What is going on in this painting?**

• Imagine that this painting is lying on the floor and you are looking down at it. What new ideas do you have about the subject of the painting?

• What colors do you notice first? What shapes do you see? What patterns do they make?

• Do you see movement in this artwork or does it seem still? How do the patterns in this painting make it seem that way?

**Describe the COLORS, SHAPES & PATTERNS you see in this painting.**

Alma Thomas was an artist who was inspired by the beauty of nature and the changing seasons. Thomas had a unique way of painting scenes from nature. She used colors, patterns and her titles to hint at scenes and feelings instead of trying to copy exactly what she saw. In this painting, Thomas was trying to capture how a specific body of water looked during one of the four seasons.

**Talk about it:**

• Does this painting show a large body of water, like an ocean, or a smaller body of water, like a pond? What makes you say that?

• Can you see anything floating on the water’s surface? What might be drifting along underneath?

• Does this painting show a scene from winter, spring, summer or fall? What makes you say that?

• Do the colors or patterns in this painting remind you of anything you would find in nature during this season? Read the wall label by the work and see if your guesses match Thomas’s title for this painting.

Are you ready to find the next artwork? We’re looking for an artwork that shows an unusual underwater scene. Find Haslinger Gallery 📍 on the map!
Are you ready to move on? The next artwork we need to find sits on the gallery floor instead of hanging on the walls. Look at the map and make your way to Haslinger Gallery A!

Describe any FANTASTIC CREATURES you see in this painting.

Seymour Rosofsky enjoyed making dream-like paintings of fantastic and sometimes frightening creatures. He even belonged to a group of Chicago artists called “The Monster Roster” who were known for their pictures of half-animal, half-human beings and ugly beasts. Some of Rosofsky’s favorite things to paint were scary faces, creepy clowns and strange children.

Talk about it:
- What story do you see in this artwork?
- What title would you give the story?
- What feelings are expressed in this story?
- How do you feel when you look at this work?
- Who is the most important character?
- What makes you say that?
- Do you see anything in this painting that reminds you of a story you’ve heard or something from your life?

Try it at home:
Make a picture that tells a story about an unusual or fantastic creature. Your picture might show a creature from a favorite book, a dream you’ve had or something completely new from your imagination.

START HERE!

Sometime artists try very hard to make the people, places and objects in their artworks look as real as possible. Sometimes, instead of carefully observing their subjects and making artworks that are realistic copies, artists create artworks inspired by their dreams and imaginations.
Maurizio Pellegrin originally created this artwork, *The Sea*, for a church in Venice, Italy, his birthplace. Water is an important part of this city. Venice is spread out over many small islands and is surrounded by rivers and sea. There are very few roads for automobiles. Instead people travel by boat along waterways called canals. Pellegrin wanted to make an artwork that brought the spirit of the sea right outside the church, inside.

**Look for it:**

Can you find all of these objects in this sculpture?

- A Bocce ball with the number 3 on top. (Bocce, pronounced bah-chee, is an Italian lawn bowling game.)
- An empty tin wrapped in black fabric.
- A wooden fishing device painted red with twine and a metal hook.
- 6 mallets made of heavy iron weights wrapped in rawhide which are used to pound leather that will be made into purses and shoes.
- 2 red wool velvet curtains.
- A small bundle of 7 books tied with black string.

**Talk about it:**

How does this artwork remind you of the sea?

If you were making a sculpture about a sea or a body of water close to where you live, what kinds of objects would you include?

Every object in Pellegrin’s sculptures has a special secret meaning. Why do you think Pellegrin included some of these objects in *The Sea*?

**Can you find the NUMBERS or LETTERS displayed in this artwork?**

This artwork is a sculpture. Sculptures are artworks that you can look at from more than one side. A sculpture that you can walk all the way around is called “sculpture-in-the-round” or free-standing sculpture. Sculptures can be made from many things—wire, clay, metal, wood and even collections of objects like the one we’re looking at now!

**Let’s keep moving! On the map, find the McDowell Gallery in the 1899 Building and look for a painting of a person traveling like people in Venice.**
I think we might be getting close to finding my friends! Are you ready to find the last artwork in this adventure? Stay in McDowell Gallery and look around for a bright, sunny artwork that shows another river scene.

Frederick Frieseke (freeze e ka) liked to paint outdoors in the fresh air. He was part of a group of artists known as the Impressionists. In their paintings, these artists tried to show how sunlight dances and plays across different surfaces. For this painting, Frieseke asked his wife, Sarah, to pose in a boat floating on a small river in France. He costumed her in a patterned dress and shawl and had her hold a patterned Japanese umbrella. He was excited about the way the sunlight filtered through the vines on the shore. He used paint to try and capture the bright spots on the green boat and Sarah’s rosy cheeks.

What can you guess about the PERSON you see in this painting.

Talk about it:
What is going on in this painting?
Why do you think the artist titled this painting Through the Vines?
What is this woman looking at? What is she thinking about?

Frederick Frieseke, Through the Vines, around 1908, Gift of Mr. S.G. Carkhuff • 1954.38

Think back to the Alma Thomas painting that we looked at earlier, Pond—Spring Awakening. How are Thomas’s painting and Through the Vines different? How are they alike?

Talk about it:
Do you think this painting is a portrait of his wife, Sarah? Why or why not?

Look for it:
Think back to the Alma Thomas painting that we looked at earlier, Pond—Spring Awakening. How are Thomas’s painting and Through the Vines different? How are they alike?

I think we might be getting close to finding my friends! Are you ready to find the last artwork in this adventure? Stay in McDowell Gallery and look around for a bright, sunny artwork that shows another river scene.
A landscape is a work of art with outdoor scenery and nature as its subjects.

Childe Hassam was also an Impressionist painter. Because the Impressionists worked outside to capture how the light looked during a specific time of day, they had to paint quickly. Clouds might move across the sky blocking the sun. Strong winds might bring in rain. Instead of mixing up paint colors, speedy painters like Hassam often used colors exactly as they were, right out of their paint tubes. They applied their paint with fast, loose brushstrokes that add a sense of shimmering sunlight and breeziness to their works.

Childe Hassam, Bedford Hills, 1908, Bequest of Edwin C. Shaw • 1955.30

Imagine you are making a copy of this painting. Show how you would move your hand and arm to make these kinds of brushstrokes.

Take a look at this work of art from different spots around the room. Does looking at it from one place make it look more or less real than from another?

Try it now:

Imagine that you are in a boat traveling along the river in this painting. Describe the weather and your surroundings. What can you smell? What do you hear?

How would your boat ride through Bedford Hills compare to Sarah’s boat ride in Frieske’s painting Through the Vines?

Try it at home:

Grab some paper and paints and head outside on a sunny day to make your own Impressionist artwork! Try to work quickly without pre-mixing colors using fast, loose brushstrokes.

Look for it:

Point out my friends in this painting. What words would you use to describe them?

Look closely at the winding river in this painting. How many different colors can you find in the water?

How many colors can you see in the clouds? In the trees?

Aha! Here are my friends! They’ve been hiding out in this LANDSCAPE painting.

Think about today’s museum visit? Have you discovered something new about looking at art or how art is made? Have you learned something new about yourself or others?

If you’d like to play again, additional family art adventure guides are available at the visitor services desk. While you’re here, pick up information about upcoming programs for kids and families or visit us online at www.akronartmuseum.org. We hope to see you again soon!

Hurray! We completed the Water Works hunt! That was really fun! Thanks for helping me to find my friends!