

EXPLORATIONS IN ART + DESIGN

HOW TO:

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE INSPIRED BY OBJECTS IN THE RISD MUSEUM COLLECTION. YOU CAN DO THEM BY YOURSELF OR WITH OTHER PEOPLE. ALL YOU NEED IS SOME PAPER OR A SKETCHBOOK, PENCILS, COLORED PENCILS, OR MARKERS. HAVE FUN EXPLORING!

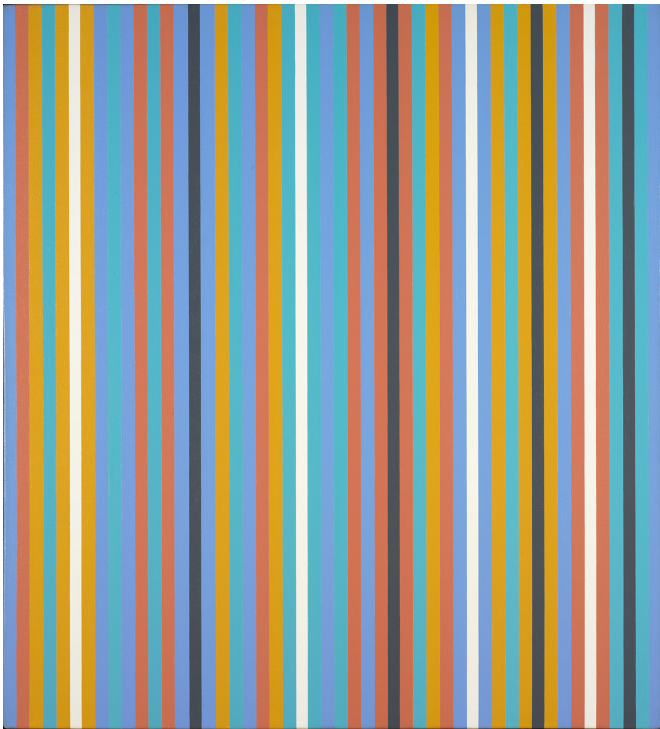
**RISD
MUSEUM**
RISDMUSEUM.ORG

Family and Youth programming at the RISD Museum is made possible by support from the Carter Fund for Museum Education. Additional support is provided by Mary Jane and Glenn Creamer, Charles and Pamela Meyers, Toots Zynsky and Ernesto Aparicio, and the James W. and Gloria M. Winston Endowed Scholarship Fund.

EXPLORATION #1

SEEING ABSTRACTION

This painting by Bridget Riley is an example of abstract art. She was interested in how each stripe of color relates to the one next to it. Many artists choose to express themselves just through lines, shapes, and color instead of making an image of a thing, person, or scene.



Bridget Riley

Gather

1981

Oil on linen

Bequest of Richard Brown Baker

LOOK CLOSE:

CAN YOU FOCUS ON ONE LINE OF COLOR AT A TIME? WHEN YOU DO, CAN YOU ALSO SEE THE OTHERS? HOW MANY COLORS DID THE ARTIST USE IN THE PAINTING?

The artist made this painting after traveling to Egypt, where she was inspired by the colorful decorations she saw in ancient tombs.

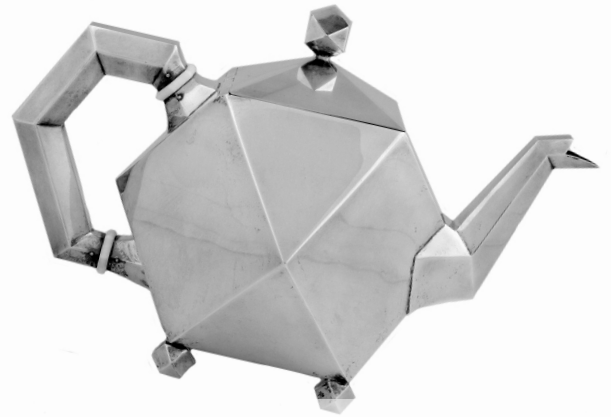
MAKE IT:

GO ON A WALK OR LOOK AROUND YOUR HOUSE. MAKE A LIST OF SIX COLORS YOU SEE. MAKE YOUR OWN STRIPED DRAWING USING THE COLORS YOU LISTED.

EXPLORATION #2

SEEING FUNCTION

A functional object is used to do something. Think of all the objects you use in a day—each one was designed by someone or even by a whole team of people!



MAKE IT: LOOK AROUND YOUR HOME FOR FUNCTIONAL OBJECTS, THEN USE THE LIST BELOW TO GET STARTED. MAKE SKETCHES OF YOUR EXPLORATIONS.



1. FIND AN OBJECT YOU CAN WRITE A LETTER WITH.

2. FIND AN OBJECT YOU CAN SIT ON.

3. FIND AN OBJECT THAT HOLDS SOMETHING.

4. FIND AN OBJECT USED FOR EATING.

Top: **Gorham Manufacturing Company**; Teapot; 1884; Silver; The Gorham Collection. Gift of Textron Inc.
Bottom: **Gorham Manufacturing Company**; Salad Fork; ca. 1880; Silver; The Gorham Collection. Gift of Textron Inc.

EXPLORATION#3

SEEING DESIGN



Roman

Jug handle in the Form of a Panther Devouring Prey

1-200 CE

Bronze

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke



Greek

Furniture Attachment in the Form of a Lion

Ca. 500 BCE

Bronze

Mary B. Jackson Fund

This panther and lion are all that is left of larger objects that have been lost or damaged over time, so we don't know for sure what the original objects looked like. The panther handle was probably attached to some kind of vessel or jar, and the lion might have been part of a piece of furniture.

MAKE IT: DESIGN A VESSEL OR JAR THAT MIGHT BE ATTACHED TO THE PANTHER HANDLE. DRAW IT ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

MAKE IT: IMAGINE A PIECE OF FURNITURE THAT MIGHT BE ATTACHED TO THE LION. SKETCH YOUR DESIGN ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

EXPLORATION #4

SEEING DETAILS

This box is an example of carved lacquer. It was created by coating wood with many layers of a hard and shiny finish made from dye and tree sap (lacquer) and then carving intricate designs. Because this technique takes a long time and great skill, lacquered objects such as this one are considered special luxury items.



Chinese

Box with Birds and Flowers
1800s

Carved red-lacquered wood
Gift of Misses Anna and Louisa Case

LOOK CLOSE:

CLOSELY EXAMINE ONE OF THE FLOWERS CARVED INTO THE BOX AND DRAW IT ON A PIECE OF PAPER. NOTICE THE SHAPES OF THE PETALS AND LEAVES AND THE DETAILS CARVED INTO THEM.

MAKE IT:

DESIGN YOUR OWN SPECIAL BOX AND COVER IT IN DETAILED PATTERNS OR IMAGES.

EXPLORATION #5

SEEING PEOPLE

This portrait by Derrick Adams is part of a series of artworks showing Black Americans resting and playing in water with air-filled floats. A portrait is an artwork of a person or group of people.



Derrick Adams

Shark Float

2017

Color screenprint with inkjet print
collage on paper

Walter H. Kimball Fund

LOOK CLOSE: COLOR HELPS TO CREATE THE MOOD OF AN ARTWORK. LIST SOME OF THE COLORS YOU SEE AND WRITE DOWN HOW EACH COLOR MAKES YOU FEEL. EVERYONE'S REACTION TO CERTAIN COLORS IS DIFFERENT AND VERY PERSONAL.

MAKE IT: THINK ABOUT A TIME YOU FELT RELAXED. TRY TO REMEMBER DETAILS ABOUT THE WEATHER OR WHAT YOU WERE WEARING. CREATE A PORTRAIT OF YOURSELF IN THAT SCENE AND CHOOSE COLORS THAT MATCH YOUR MOOD AT THE TIME.