WELCOME!

The Boise Art Museum is a fun place for families to discover. This activity guide explores 4 artworks in BAM’s Permanent Collection.

What is a permanent collection?

A permanent collection is a grouping of objects or artworks that are collected and cared for by a museum.

BAM’s Permanent Collection consists of approximately 4,000 works of art and includes works on paper (prints, drawings, and photographs), paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, mixed-media works, and video. BAM’s Permanent Collection focuses on modern and contemporary art, and also includes artwork that date from antiquity through the 21st centuries. Objects originate from Idaho and the Northwest, the United States, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.
What is an exhibition?

An exhibition is an organized presentation and display of a selection of items — artworks, audio recordings, sample materials or tools, etc. — that are related by a common idea, theme, or message.

Outside the Lines

Outside the Lines is the fourth and final exhibition inspired by Boise Art Museum’s Art Cards, a project designed to encourage engagement with artworks in BAM’s Permanent Collection.

Based on the Art Card deck True Colors, this exhibition explores the ways in which artists employ the elements of art and principles of design to convey mood, provoke emotional responses, and communicate with viewers.

While the artworks are organized in themes of Line; Shape and Form; Space; Color and Value; and Texture; these categories often overlap. With the principles of design (such as balance, rhythm, emphasis, pattern, contrast, unity, and movement), artists can use the elements of art to create their expressions in a vast number of ways, as demonstrated by the diversity of artwork presented in this exhibition.
What are **elements of art**?

**Line**
An identifiable path marked on a surface.

**Form**
A grouping of lines creating length, width, and depth—3D.

**Space**
The illusion of depth (3D) on a flat surface.

**Texture**
The way in which art can be sensed by touch, or would seem to feel to the touch.

**Shape**
A grouping of lines creating length and width—2D.

**Color + Value**
Color is a general term for the qualities listed below when observed in light reflected by materials and pigments.

- **Value**: Darkness or lightness of the color. White and black can be added to color pigments to change their value.
- **Hue**: Color itself, eg. red, blue, or yellow
- **Intensity**: Saturation, eg. bright or dull

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Take your time and look closely.

- What colors do you see?
- What shapes can you find?
- What might you see outside the boundaries of the frame?

Look at this image up close. Then look at the image from a distance.

- How does looking at it from a distance change what you see?
Draw illustrations to add into this landscape – Idaho’s Crater’s of the Moon.
Maybe there is a helicopter landing and flowers growing.

You can work together on the drawing, or make multiple scenes to piece together into a larger landscape.
Begin a conversation by asking questions about the artwork. Brainstorm questions to ask the artist if he were in the room with you.

Start with the phrase *I wonder...*

For example:
- I wonder...how the artist got the shape of his hands into the glass.
- I wonder...what the artists wants to “say” with this artwork.
- I wonder...whose hands are in the photograph?

**What are your questions?**

Since the artist’s hands are shown in the photo, how do you think the artwork will look when displayed in the Museum?
Use games to discover more about the artwork.
Here are some suggestions:

- I Spy
- Pick two artworks and identify what is the same, and what is different.
- Make up a story about the artwork – Why was it made? What is going on? Who do these objects belong to? Tell as story about the owner, based on the objects.
- Count the number of colors, shapes, or animals you can find.

You can always make up your own games, too!

Katja Oxman, (American, born Germany, 1942), *An Acre For A Bird To Choose*, 2000, aquatint, edition 60/75, Gift of the artist, Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection, 24” x 30”.
1. **Gather** objects from your home.
   Consider your favorite objects, objects you use often, objects you had forgotten, and objects of different sizes, shapes, and colors.
   - What objects did you gather?
   - What colors do you notice?
   - What patterns do you notice?

2. **Arrange** the objects.
   Place the objects to make an arrangement. Try placing the objects in different ways – overlapping, right-side up, and up-side down.

3. **Sketch** the arrangement.
   Focus on the outlines of objects, rather than the details.

4. **Trace** over your outlines using a dark pen or marker.

5. **Add** patterns, colors, and details.
   Be imaginative – add your own patterns and details along with what you observe.