

OUT OF SIGHT!

ART OF THE SENSES

Pre-visit Activity, Grades Pre-K–5

Emotions and Scent

Out of Sight! Art of the Senses brings together contemporary works of art that actively engage with how our bodies meet the wider world through the five basic senses. In this exercise, students will explore a work of art through the five senses, and with the element of texture.



Objective

Students will express individual ideas about a work of art and recognize the ideas of others. They will connect visual evidence in a work of art to interpret what they see.

Activity



Review the five senses with your students: hearing, smell, taste, touch, and vision. Show the students a work of art that depicts a real or imagined place. You can find images of works in our collection at the following link:

www.albrightknox.org/art/collection.

Begin by asking the students to describe what they see. After a close observation of the work, ask the students to imagine themselves inside the painting. Encourage them to brainstorm what they would experience with each sense. What would they smell? See? Taste? Feel? Hear? Write down each of the answers.

For the older grade levels, you can encourage the students to write a short story or a poem describing the place using the answers that were shared by the class.

Vocabulary-Building Exercise

Texture:

physical feel of a touchable sensation on a surface area

Implied texture:

appearance of a touchable sensation on a surface area

Focus on the list of items the students imagined they would feel. Review (or introduce) the word texture and its meaning. Ask the students to describe with adjectives the textures they see.

Nam June Paik (South Korean, 1932–2006). Installation view of *Piano Piece*, 1993. Closed-circuit video sculpture, 120 x 84 x 48 inches (304.8 x 213.4 x 121.9 cm). Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Sarah Norton Goodyear Fund, 1993 (1993:9a-ii). © 1993 Nam June Paik.

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Post-visit Activity, Grades Pre-K–5

..... Ask the students what their favorite artwork was and why.

Have the students collectively choose one of the artworks and then play the Team Story Game. Begin the story with one sentence (usually it starts with "Once Upon a Time...") and ask each student to add to the story. They are allowed to say one sentence and must continue the plot. This process continues until it reaches the last student, who should try to conclude the story in just one sentence.

Make a list of the artworks the students remember seeing during the guided tour. Which ones could they touch? Smell? Hear? Taste? See? Were they surprised to see any of these works in a museum? Why or why not?

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Have the students create artworks inspired by what they saw at the museum. Perhaps they can make works of art that they can invite the viewer to touch!

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Have the students look for found materials that they can use to make works of art (such as cardboard, beads, shoeboxes, feathers, Legos, straw, etc.).
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Create a "larger-than-life" sculpture inspired by Robert Therrien.

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Construct a work of art that invites the viewer to exit from one place to enter a new one, inspired by Felix Gonzalez-Torres.

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Create a work of art that protrudes from the wall and uses lighting to create shadows, inspired by Robert Irwin.



Inspired by Takashi Murakami, invite your students to construct a puppet character to use in dramatic play. Start by having students think about the five senses and include those parts on the puppet (eyes, ears, mouth, etc.)