

MMoCAkids art guide

WELCOME!

Before you explore MMoCA, head to the lobby desk to pick up a museum map if you need help finding your way around.



Leave backpacks, large bags, umbrellas, food, and drinks in the coat room—look for the red walls near the lobby desk.



Use a pencil for sketching or writing in the galleries—available at the front desk—and remember not to touch the artwork.



Photography is allowed throughout the museum—just make sure your flash is off. Signs will be posted if photography is restricted for specific exhibitions.



All bathrooms are gender-inclusive. Single-stall restrooms are located on the third floor, at the top of the staircase near the Fresco entrance.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Welcome to MMoCA! This art guide is intended for young visitors to use with their adult companions. In it, you'll find a range of gallery **activities**, **tips** for exploring together, and **information** about the museum's free family programs and resources.

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY ART?

Contemporary art can be described as **the art of today**. It encompasses a diversity of perspectives, ideas, styles, and media. Contemporary artists respond to the world around them, explore aspects of their identity, and investigate art as a visual language, among other subjects.

IDEAS FOR ACTIVE EXPLORATION

Color Quest see if you can spot every color of the rainbow in one of the galleries, or in a single work of art: **what does each color make you feel?**

I Spy choose an art object and give clues; the other person tries to guess what it is: e.g., **I spy something blue**

Title This give the artwork a title before reading the label, then compare yours with the artist's: **does knowing the title affect your understanding of an artwork?**

Memory spend one minute looking closely at an artwork, noticing as many details as you can; then, turn around and have someone quiz you: **what details do you remember?**

Shape Search look for geometric and biometric forms in the art, or in the museum's architecture: **what shapes can you find?**

Step Inside imagine that you have stepped inside the work of art: **what do you see, hear, feel, smell, taste?**

Strike a Pose! recreate shapes or figures in a work of art by moving your body to mirror what you see



WHERE WILL YOU ENCOUNTER ARTWORK AT MMoCA?

Lower Level	Henry Street Gallery
First Floor	Lobby & State Street Gallery
Second Floor	Main Galleries & Imprint Gallery
Third Floor	Rooftop Sculpture Garden

The **Imprint Gallery** on the second floor is dedicated to presenting new media art.

TIPS FOR EXPLORING MMoCA TOGETHER

- 1 Take your time** in the galleries, remembering to slow down to talk about an artwork in depth. Admission to MMoCA is free, with exhibitions on view for months at a time—you can always come back to see more.
- 2 Ask open-ended questions** in front of an artwork to promote deep and imaginative thinking. Remember, there are many different ways to interpret a work of art. **What do you see? What do you feel? What is happening here?**
- 3 Have fun!** There are many ways to look at art together. Make an adventure out of your exploration by introducing drawing, writing, and playing into your visit. Find a Learning Center, or try one of the activities in this guide.*
- 4 Encourage “close reading”** of a work of art by asking children to describe any details, patterns, colors, or materials that they see. After looking closely, try looking from a distance. **How does viewing the art from different angles change the way you perceive or interpret it?**
- 5 Bring your own experiences** to the artwork. Make connections between what you know and what you see. Encourage children do the same: **What does this artwork remind you of? What does it make you think about?**

***Learning Centers** are located within galleries and feature a range of activities and resources for youth with adults to use on a drop-in basis.

AFTER YOUR VISIT...

Talk about your shared museum experience: what were your favorite objects, ideas, moments, or activities?

Create a drawing together that illustrates your day at the museum.

Make a plan to come back to MMoCA; admission to the museum is free!

Check out Kids' Art Adventures or Art Cart: visit mmoca.org for schedules and more information on upcoming sessions.

Sign up for MMoCA Notes, the museum's weekly e-newsletter, to find out about current exhibitions, events, and offerings for families.

ABOUT MMoCA

The **Madison Museum of Contemporary Art** (MMoCA) is an independent nonprofit organization that exhibits, collects, and preserves modern and contemporary art to provide transformative experiences that educate, reflect, and inspire us as individuals and a community. MMoCA is supported by membership and donations. The museum's education department develops programs to increase public understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art. MMoCA's free family resources are generously funded by the Nimick Forbesway Foundation.

Admission to the museum is free



**DRAW
SOMETHING
TALL HERE:**

SKETCH IT!

Find a work of art that grabs your attention, and make a sketch of the most interesting parts below:

Need more space? Check out a free ArtPack at the front desk, which includes a sketchbook and colored pencils for drawing.

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday	12-5pm
Wednesday	12-5pm
Thursday	12-5pm
Friday	12-8pm
Saturday	10 am-8pm
Sunday	12-5pm

Closed Mondays

CONTACT

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FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS

**FIND MORE INFO AT
MMoCA.ORG:**

Kids' Art Adventures invite families to make art together. Join in during the school year for guided gallery discussions followed by related art projects in the museum's classroom. Space is limited to thirty children and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Art Cart & Art Cart EXTRA! are the museum's summer outdoor art programs that bring expert instruction and a relaxed attitude to art projects at parks, playgrounds, and beaches throughout Madison and Dane County. Art Cart is a partnership of MMoCA and Madison School & Community Recreation. Art Cart EXTRA! is a program of MMoCA.



Art is a visual language. Imagine the conversation taking place between two works of art.

FREE FAMILY RESOURCES

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY AT
MMoCA:**

The **ArtPack** is MMoCA's hands-on discovery kit for exploring art. Available at the lobby desk, the ArtPack promotes awareness of visual art—and is great fun, too!

The **MMoCAkids Art Guide** is what you're holding now! Use it throughout the museum galleries to help guide your exploration, and take a copy with you when you leave.

Learning Centers feature interactive computer kiosks, children's books, and a full range of discovery activities for various age levels that promote imaginative thinking about the art on view. Look for these creative drop-in spaces in the galleries.

The **MMoCAteens Art Guide** provides a guided introduction to looking at and thinking about contemporary art. Invite teenagers you know to pick up this free self-guiding resource when they visit the museum.