

MMoCAteens

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.

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY ART?

Contemporary means happening or coming into being during the present. Contemporary art can be described as **the art of today**. It encompasses a diversity of perspectives, ideas, styles, and media. Many contemporary artists respond to social issues, critique systems of power, and explore aspects of their personal identity, among other subjects.

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER

Remember, there are no wrong answers when interpreting contemporary art. In fact, your unique reflections help contribute to the artwork's meaning.

GLOSSARY

abstract art art that does not represent observed aspects of the world

appropriation the intentional borrowing, copying, and alteration of preexisting images and objects as a method of creating new work

collaborative art art made by more than one creator

conceptual art art in which the idea—or the artist's thinking—is more important than the finished art object

curator a person who is responsible for the collection, research, and exhibition of art objects

installation art art that is created, constructed, or installed on the site where it is exhibited; often designed to transform the space and immerse the viewer in the work

new media art art made from existing, new, and emerging technologies to explore new modes of artistic expression

site-specific art art created to exist in a certain place

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 LOOKING

- 1) **Give yourself enough time** to look at a work of art—it can take time to develop your ideas.
- 2) **Look closely**, as well as from a distance. You can look at sculptures and installations from all kinds of angles.
- 3) **Keep an open mind** about what you are seeing. Making a work of art involves many creative decisions. Consider what decisions the artist made, and why.
- 4) **Make connections** between what you see and what you know. What does this artwork remind you of? Does it relate to your life in some way? If so, how?
- 5) **Share your observations** with someone else. What do your friends or family think of the same work?

MUSEUM NOTES: _____

Use this space to write down the names of artists or works that you like (or anything else you want to remember from your visit).

SKETCH SOMETHING

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



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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EXPLORE YOUR IDEAS

Find a work of art that provokes you or makes you curious.

What drew you to it?

What are its physical characteristics (color, line, texture, shape, space, value, scale, proportion, material, style)? What effects do these features create?

What do you think is the main subject or theme of the work? What other themes come to mind, and how are they related to each other, or to your life?

How does this work of art make you feel? What does it make you think about? Do you think the artist is more interested in capturing your emotions, or your intellect, or both equally? Why?

If you could change anything about this work of art, what would it be, and why?

Use the space below to write about your impressions of this artwork.

What will you take away from this viewing experience?

Visit **mmoca.org** and enter the artwork title or artist name into the search engine to see what else you can discover online.

WHAT IS A CURATOR?

Curators are museum staff members responsible for developing exhibitions. Museum curators **select** and **interpret** works of art to be shown to the public, and **arrange** them in specific and intentional ways to **provoke** feeling and thought among viewers. In short, curators **expose** the public to works of art and help **provide a framework** for the viewing experience.

Exhibition design requires close study of the exhibiting artists and their work. Curators **research** various topics related to the exhibition and think about the socio-political and art historical contexts within which the works were created.

Curators often **share** what they have learned through public **talks**, written **essays**, or contributions to other printed materials, including **exhibition labels**.



Art is a visual language.

Choose two adjacent works of art and try to imagine the conversation taking place between them.

READING LABELS



Artist's name

(Nationality, year born)

Artwork Title, year the work was created

Medium—the material(s) used to create a work of art

Collection of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art

If MMoCA owns the artwork, you'll see this phrase, which means that the work is in the museum's permanent collection.

THINK LIKE A CURATOR

Notice relationships between the art—why was this work placed next to that one? What characteristics do they have in common? **What major themes or issues** are conveyed across different works? If you could design the exhibition differently, **what would you change? Why?**

Imagine that you have been invited to curate your **dream exhibition** at MMoCA. What would be your main thematic focus? Who are the artists? Which works will you include, and how does each work of art connect back to your theme?