

Art Cart EXTRA!

Suellen Rocca inspired board game



Suellen Rocca, *Game*, 1966. Oil on canvas with artist's painted frame, 28 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches.

Suellen Rocca's painting *Game* invites the viewer to find a path among the lively symbols and spots of color that make up the canvas. See if you can find the words "Start Here" and "Stop Here". Aside from those commands, it's not clear where or in what order the game goes, but it *is* clearly a game of action and discovery. **What path do your eyes travel along when you look at *Game*?**

Notice how much **movement** there is in this painting! There are figures stepping over water, following a path, dancing, running and sitting. Even the black margin is covered in symbols, including music notes and dancing people, as well as small words that name dance steps, like fox trot and tango. There are many personal symbols from the artist's childhood. **See if you can find these items:** a ring, an island with a palm tree, an ice cream cone, a baseball player, an envelope, an umbrella, and the words "fun" and "dance". Suellen Rocca enjoyed games like connect-the-dots, mazes, and follow-the-numbers when she was a child. Do you see any of these in her painting?

What symbols, pictures and games are in your life? Use them for inspiration to make your own game!

TURN OVER FOR INSTRUCTIONS

INCLUDED MATERIALS

- two pieces of tagboard
- metallic markers
- black crayon
- sidewalk chalk

YOU MAY ALSO WANT...

- washable markers
- crayons
- hula hoop

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Observe the world around you or do some research with an adult about symbols that show people, action, or a command. You could even make up your own symbols! These symbols will be added to your game board in a later step.
2. Envision your board game design. Start with the shape of the board. Will it be in the shape of your favorite board game, a hopscotch board, tic-tac-toe, a treasure map, or a shape you imagined? Use a pencil and scissors to cut the board into the shape you want. You can also choose to keep your board the shape of the paper, which is a rectangle.
3. Use your pencil to plan out your board game using some of the symbols you researched or imagined. It is okay to erase and change your ideas. Don't forget to show players where to start, stop, and the path to travel on.
4. Think about how to play the game and the rules each player needs to follow. How does the game end? How do you determine the winner? Does your game require cooperation (partners or a team)? Or does each player take a turn individually?
5. Outline your drawings with black crayon. Add color to some or all of your symbols. Consider using the colors as part of the symbol system. For example, red means "Stop" and green means "Go".
6. Create a legend or symbol key so that players know what all of the symbols mean on their turn.
7. Find some friends and invite them to play the game you created!

For video instructions, visit: mmoca.org/learn/for-kids

TRY THIS!

Create your game outside using sidewalk chalk. What if your game was in the shape of a circle? Use a hula hoop to trace a circle on the ground, then draw your game inside the circle and play!

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