Making a Great Exhibition is a story about how people share their creativity. From artists to curators, art handlers, and museum directors, each person involved in an exhibition has a love of making things. Artists use things they like to give them ideas about what to make. Sometimes, all it takes is seeing something beautiful in nature to inspire a wonderful piece of art or spark an idea for an exhibition.
Draw a self-portrait and include things that inspire you in the space below.

What Inspires You?

Think of things that shape who you are. These could be your favorite book, the objects you like to collect, the food that makes you happy, or even the animal you like the form or texture of! Surround your self-portrait with what inspires you, and you'll have a work of art that showcases what makes you you!
Create your own abstract painting using different colored crayons, markers, or pencils.

What Is Abstract Art?

Abstract art is made out of shapes and colors that don’t look like or copy something from real life. Instead, they are responses to the world around you—the form of a tree or the texture of a surface becomes something else.
Create your own sculpture on the plinth below using different colored crayons, markers, or pencils.

What Does Abstract Art Mean?

Abstract art can have lots of different meanings to both the artist and to the people viewing and it allows everyone to view the same thing in a different way. It asks us to look carefully and find our own connections and responses.
Art Word Search

From the moment an artist is inspired to the day a show opens to visitors, exhibitions take a lot of work, people, and tools to make them great. Hidden in the letters below are words that are important to artists and museums. Keep your eyes peeled and find them all!

A Z F E U U H S Y V E Z T B E
G B Z W P Y C L F A U E U H X
C Z S M A U S V L W Y O G S H
O O A T L R E T N I A P Z L I
N C I P R J C Z M U S E U M B
S Y T D F A Z H E G A P J R I
E O J H U A C J I R T O E O T
R C Y P I T Q T T V I H P T I
V P G A R H S H T S I T R A O
A K C O V R A W A N E S L R N
T K N P E N I V P M H Z T U P
O V T F D X N F O Z K C S C A
R X M L Y A B L O W T O R C H
S E E M C K V R H Y C C Y S E
D R R H M V F J J C G G W Q T

- **MUSEUM**: a place that stores and displays objects of historical, scientific, cultural, or artistic significance that you can visit
- **ABSTRACT**: a style of art that uses shapes and forms but doesn’t look like something from real life
- **EXHIBITION**: a public display of artworks or artifacts
- **SCULPTOR**: a person who makes artwork from wood, metal, stone, or clay
- **PAINTER**: a person who uses paint to create pictures
- **STUDIO**: a place where artists work; studios come in different shapes and sizes
- **CURATOR**: a person who picks which artwork goes in a museum and where it will be placed
- **CANVAS**: cloth stretched over board that is used for paintings
- **BLOW TORCH**: a device that produces a hot flame that can be applied to a surface to shape materials
- **ARCHIVIST**: a person who keeps items from past exhibitions to preserve them for the future
- **CONSERVATOR**: a person who maintains and repairs any artwork that has been damaged
- **ART HANDLER**: a person who transports and installs artwork
- **ARTIST**: a person who creates art such as paintings, sculptures, music, and writing

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Exhibition Scavenger Hunt

There are so many things that make an exhibition beyond the art that you see. Take this sheet to a museum or gallery and see what behind-the-scenes things you can spot. If you are staying at home, try finding images of these items and make a collage!

Can you spot a...

- Painting
- Picture frame
- Abstract artwork
- Bench
- Wood sculpture
- Clay sculpture
- Velvet rope
- Museum guard
- Self-portrait
- Sign with arrows
- The word MUSEUM
- Book
- Lightbulb
- Camera
- Artist
- Curator
- Visitor
- Landscape painting

What Else Do You See?

Look around and add other things to the list that you see in the exhibition. The more you look, the more you can find!
Exhibition in a Box

Become a curator by making your own exhibition! A curator’s job is to pick what goes inside the museum and where each artwork should be placed. To plan an exhibition layout, a curator makes miniature models of the galleries with small representations of the artwork before placing them in their actual spaces.

What you’ll need:
- Short cardboard or shoebox
- Scissors
- Construction paper or other decorative paper
- Tape or glue
- Ruler

Step 1
To make your miniature museum, start by finding an empty box. If your box has flaps on the top, cut these off. This will be the main gallery space. Don’t forget to ask an adult for help if you need it.

Step 2
Next, create the floor of your museum. Start by measuring the inside bottom of the box with a ruler, and then cut out a colored piece of construction paper at the same size. Attach the colored paper to the inside bottom of the box with tape or glue. Keep in mind that you may need more than one piece of paper if your box is big.

Step 3
Decorate the walls of your museum. Measure the height and width of the different sides of the box. Think about what color walls you might see in a museum or gallery and pick a piece of construction paper to cut to the right size and attach to the inside walls with tape or glue.

Step 4
Cut out the characters and artworks on the next page to place in your miniature model. Use tape or glue to hold your pieces in place. And voilà! You have your own miniature museum, and you are its curator. You can also draw, color, and cut out your own unique works of art or characters to place in the museum.
Exhibition in a Box
Art Word Fun

Exercise your writing skills with a(n) _____ (adjective) _____ art story! For this activity, you will need a partner. Pick one person to be the storyteller and one person to be the writer. Only the writer can look at the paper. Have the writer ask the storyteller to name words based on the labels beneath the blanks. Fill in the blanks with the storyteller's suggestions. When all the blanks are filled, read the story out loud to see how it turned out. Be prepared for a few giggles!

Today, I visited the ________ exhibition at __________. The first thing (adjective) (name of museum) I saw when I walked in was a big ________ of a(n) _________. It (type of art) (animal) was _______ and made out of _______. The artist, ________, (color) (material) might have been inspired by ________ when they created this work. (name)

They used ________, ________, and ________ to create (tool) (tool) (tool) their piece. It looked like a lot of fun! I thought their piece was absolutely ________! Next, I walked into a ________ and saw ________ (adjective) (type of room) (number) installations all around. I couldn’t take my eyes off of the _________. (type of art)

_______, ________, ________, ________, and ________, the (color) (color) (color) (color) artwork looked like a(n) _________. If I worked here I would want to (noun)

______ and ________. My favorite artist is ________ because I like (verb) (verb) (name)

how they _______. I think going to an exhibition is _________. (verb) (adjective)

Did You Know?

Storytelling is also a form of art, and stories can also be abstract. After you and your partner complete the story above, think about if the story is abstract or realistic. If the storyteller chose different words, how could you make the story even more abstract or more realistic?