

Gallery Activity: Memory Challenge

Focus: To increase observation skills and strengthen attention to detail.

Description:

- Give a group or individual a specified amount of time to study a work of art.
- Have participants turn around so they can no longer view the work of art
- Ask a sequence of specific questions about the work of art:
 - What is in the foreground? The background? The middle ground?
 - What are the main colors of this or that part?
 - How many figures are there and what are they wearing?
- Have the group turn back around.
- Discuss what was remembered and what was not. Why?

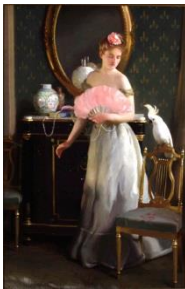
Tips:

- Questions can be vague or specific.
- Point out the importance of looking carefully.

Extensions:

- Repeat with another work of art to demonstrate how the group's observation skills improve.
- Have students repeat the activity back in the classroom and try to recreate an image with collage supplies.

Suggested Artwork:



William Paxton, *The White Bird*, oil, 1903, 79.5, Gift of Mrs. John D. West



Stuart Davis, *Downtown Street*, Oil, 1931, 75.19.3, Purchase of the Little Gallery, Inc



Johann Henrik Carl Berthelsen, *Favorite Toys*, Oil, 1941, 2018.3.3, Gift of Lee Berthelsen