Take a look at some of these artworks from Mia’s collection, talk about what you see, and then color them in however you are inspired!
Vessel in the Form of a Fish

Nasca, Peru, South America Vessel in the Form of a Fish, 100 BCE–600 CE, Clay, pigments
The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund, 44.3.59

Discussion Questions

1. This is a vessel in the shape of a fish. What did the artist do to tell us this is a fish?

2. There are lots of patterns and designs on this fish vessel. Imagine you are holding a paint brush. How would it feel to make those patterns? Did your hand move fast or slow? Big or small?

3. Fish were very important to the Nazca culture. What animals are important to you and your community? Why?
Cradle Board Cover


Discussion Questions

1. Look closely at the designs on this cradle board cover. There are different images and animals, all included to protect the child inside. What images and animals make you feel safe? Why? What would you want to decorate with them?

2. This cradle board cover is made of many different materials, some found in nature and some that are human-made. Look closely and make a list for each.

3. The lessons of quillwork (decorating with porcupine quills) were passed down by women from generation to generation to keep the technique from being lost. What lessons have you learned from grown-ups in your life? What lessons or skills have you taught your friends?
Horse

China, Asia. Horse, 8th century, Earthenware with polychrome glaze.
The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund, 49.1.6

Discussion Questions

1. Horses were very popular in China’s Tang dynasty ceramics. The blue color was very rare, making it an extra special sculpture. Look closely. What do you see? Describe the details, its texture and colors.

2. Some parts of this horse look real and some look imaginary. Look closely. What did the artist do to make it look like a real horse? How do you know? What parts did the artist use their imagination? What tells you that?

3. This horse would have been placed in a tomb to keep the dead safe in the afterlife. What objects or animals make you feel safe? How so?
**Plank Mask**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Look closely at this mask. How do you know it's a mask? What makes it similar or different from other masks you've seen? How so?

2. This mask is decorated with shapes and patterns to make a face. What shapes do you see? How did the artist use them to form a face? How does the face make you feel? Why is that?

3. Art connects us with other people. This mask was used to connect the wearer with their ancestors. How do you stay connected with your family, friends, or community? How does it make you feel to be connected?

Soundsuit

Discussion Questions

1. Soundsuits like this one help us express ourselves. What might this soundsuit be saying? What do you see that makes you say that?

2. This soundsuit is made from recycled materials. The artist used old toys to decorate the frame. What objects would you use when making a soundsuit to represent you? Why? Where would you wear it? And why?

3. Imagine you stepped inside this soundsuit and began to move. How would it feel? What noises might you hear? What smells might you smell? What do you see that makes you say those things?

Nick Cave, United States, 1959 Soundsuit, 2010, Metal, wood, plastic, pigments, cotton and acrylic fibers Gift of funds from Alida Messinger, 2011.12.a,b, © Nick Cave and Jack Shainman Gallery, NY

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Pair of Vajra Warriors

Discussion Questions

1. Look closely. Choose a warrior to stand like. How does it feel? Which statue did you choose? Why?

2. Together these warriors stood outside a temple to protect it and keep it safe. They are more than 6 ft. tall. Look around and find something that tall. How would it feel to walk up and see these? Why? How do they make you feel? Have you visited Mia before and seen them in person? How did seeing them in person feel?

3. What are some of your strengths? Why did you choose to share those? What does strength look like to you? Why?
Unknown Japanese, Japan, Asia Vajra Warriors, 14th century, Polychromed Japanese cypress (hinoki) with lacquer Gift of funds from the Regis Corporation, 83.76.1,2
London: St. Paul's Cathedral seen from the Thames

Discussion Questions

1. This painting is of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, an important place for many people. Look closely. How does this painting make you feel? Why? Think of a place that is important to you. How do you feel when you are there? Why?

2. There are lots of different colors in this painting. Look around. Do you see any similar colors around you? How do those colors make you feel? Why? What is your favorite color? Why did you choose that?

3. Look closely. Play a game of I-Spy. What do you see going on in this painting? How do you know? Where are the people, even if you can't see them? Where would you want to be in this painting? Why?
Tiger Pillow

China, Asia Tiger Pillow, 12th century, Tz’u-chou ware stoneware with black and tan glaze over a white slip under a clear glaze Gift of Ruth and Bruce Dayton, 2000.89.1

Discussion Questions

1. Tigers have been important animals in Chinese culture and art since ancient times. What animals are important to you? Why?

2. Some parts of this tiger look real and some look imaginary. Look closely. What did the artist do to make it look like a real tiger? How do you know? What parts did the artist use their imagination on? What tells you that?

3. Imagine you were about to take a nap. How do you think it might feel to sleep on a ceramic pillow? Why? What do you think you would dream about? And why?