

Breaking with Tradition: Abstract Art



Student Handout A: Self-Guided Experience

PART I: Explore + Take Notes

Explore the *Reimagine African American Art* galleries and the Contemporary art in Kresge Reception. Take notes on abstract or symbolic artworks, such as:

1. Repeating shapes and patterns
2. Use of lines, colors, and materials
3. The feelings, themes, or stories the artist expresses
4. Experimentation. How are artists breaking away from traditional artistic approaches of the past?

PART II: Sketch + Journal

Label two pages in your sketchbook. Fill both pages with sketches and drawings as you move around the gallery:

1. Found Symbols + Shapes — a collection of interesting shapes, symbols, patterns, or silhouettes
2. Personal Reflections — thoughts, bullet points, or sentences in response to at least two different artworks in the gallery

PART III: Photo Collection

Note: Remember to always stay at least two feet away (an arm's length) from any artwork.

With the flash off, students can take detailed photos of textures, color palettes, or shapes that inspire them for later use in compositions back in the classroom.

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