

OUT OF SIGHT! ART OF THE SENSES

At-Home Activities, Grades Pre-K–5

Emotions and Scent

Out of Sight! Art of the Senses brought together contemporary works of art that actively engage with how our bodies meet the wider world through the five basic senses. In this exercise, children will explore how a work of art can be experienced through the five senses, and with the element of texture.



Objective

Children will express individual ideas about a work of art. They will connect visual evidence in a work of art to interpret what they see.

Activity



Review the five senses: hearing, smell, taste, touch, and vision. Show the children an image of a work of art that depicts a real or imagined place.

You can find images of artworks that were in *Out of Sight! Art of the Senses* here: www.albrightknox.org/artofthesenses. You can find images of artworks in our collection here: www.albrightknox.org/search-collection.

Begin by asking the children to describe what they see. After a close observation of the work, ask the children to imagine themselves inside the artwork. Encourage them to brainstorm what they would experience with each sense. What would they smell? See? Taste? Feel? Hear? Write down each of the answers.

For older children, encourage them to write a short story or a poem describing the place.

Vocabulary-Building Exercise

Texture:

physical feel of a touchable sensation on a surface area

Implied texture:

appearance of a touchable sensation on a surface area

Focus on the list of items the children imagined they would feel. Review (or introduce) the word texture and its meaning. Ask the children to describe with adjectives the textures they see.

Nam June Paik (South Korean, 1932–2006). Installation view of *Piano Piece*, 1993. Closed-circuit video sculpture, 120 x 84 x 48 inches (304.8 x 213.4 x 121.9 cm). Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Sarah Norton Goodyear Fund, 1993 (1993:9a-ii). © 1993 Nam June Paik.

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Ask children what their favorite artwork is and why. You can find images of artworks that were in *Out of Sight! Art of the Senses* here: www.albrightknox.org/artofthesenses. You can find images of artworks in our collection here: www.albrightknox.org/search-collection.

Have participants (including children and adults) choose an artwork and then play the Team Story Game. Begin the story with one sentence (usually it starts with "Once Upon a Time...") and ask each participant to add to the story. They are allowed to say one sentence and must continue the plot. This process continues until it reaches the last participant, who should try to conclude the story in just one sentence. (Alternately, if you are playing with a small group, you may continue until each participant has had several turns.)

Ask children to look for found materials that they can use to make works of art (such as cardboard, beads, shoeboxes, feathers, Legos, straw, etc.).

Inspired by Takashi Murakami, invite children to construct a puppet character to use in dramatic play. Start by having children think about the five senses and include those parts on the puppet (eyes, ears, mouth, etc.).

Make a list of the artworks the students remember seeing during past visits to the museum. Which ones could they touch? Smell? Hear? Taste? See? Were they surprised to see any of these works in a museum? Why or why not?

Have the students create artworks inspired by what they have seen at the museum on past visits. Perhaps they can make works of art that they can invite the viewer to touch!



Create a "larger-than-life" sculpture inspired by Robert Therrien. (Therrien's 8-foot-tall *No title (folding table and chairs, beige)* is pictured above).