

Family Artful Conversations: Colours and Shapes

For children age 4 to 9 years old



Here are **three tips** for engaging an art conversation with children at home

- Take some time to look closely with your children and have them talk about their observations about the artwork.
- Follow up their observations with a question such as “What makes you think this way?”
- Look out for some visual elements found in the artwork. What shapes, colours and patterns can you see?

Artwork 1

UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 7



Fua Haribhitak
Face
c. 1956
Oil on canvas, 65cm x 55cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions

1. Let's spy with our eye. What shapes and colours can you see?
2. Why do you think the artist used shapes and colours to create this artwork?
3. What colours are used mostly in this artwork?
4. What do the colours remind you of?
5. What kind of expression does the face have? What makes you say so?
6. Invite your child to imitate the figure's facial expression.
7. What expression would you make if you were surprised / shocked / scared / happy / sad?
8. Why do you think the artist painted this artwork?

Artwork 1

UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 7



Fua Haribhitak
Face
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About the artwork

Thai artist Fua Haribhitak painted this artwork and named it *Face*, even if it might be difficult to find much of a face in it! Even though there are two eyes, a nose and a pair of lips, this face does seem somewhat disjointed, doesn't it? Besides using many colours, the artist also used different shapes to create the artwork.

About the artist

Thai artist Fua Haribhitak was influenced by a style called Cubism, which began in Paris in 1907. Artists imagined what it would be like to look at something from different angles at once. They depicted people and objects as a jumbled assortment of parts – much like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle, but one in which the pieces don't fit neatly.

Artwork 2

DBS Singapore Gallery 2



Choy Weng Yang
Horizontals I
1977
Oil on canvas, 92cm x 92cm
Gift of the artist
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Let's explore! Looking at art through questions

1. Let's spy with our eye. How many colours do you see?
2. What do the colours remind you of? How do they make you feel?
3. Look at this painting from far, then up close. Look up and down, right and left. Does the mood of the painting change as you move from colour to colour?
4. Are there areas which feel cool and collected, and areas which feel hot and exciting?
5. If you can add or take away any of the colours, which would it be? Why?
6. The artist used straight lines to create his artwork. Can you think of different types of lines you can use besides straight lines? Draw your idea out on a piece of paper and fill it up with colours.

Artwork 2

DBS Singapore Gallery 2



Choy Weng Yang

Horizontals I

1977

Oil on canvas, 92cm x 92cm

Gift of the artist

Collection of National Gallery Singapore

About the artwork

Choy Weng Yang believed that each colour has its own quality, and that different colours can evoke different moods in people. For example, the colour red is associated with anger; this is why we say somebody is seeing red when he is angry!

About the artist

Choy Weng Yang has been practising art for more than 45 years. He creates artwork spontaneously while reacting to what and how he is feeling, rather than what is immediately seen. He once said, "Colour in a painting is something alive. When you put on a colour, you have to think about what other colours there are. Colours interact. They affect each other."



Artists may use colours and shapes to create works that invite us to feel different emotions or imagine stories. The next time you visit National Gallery Singapore, observe an artist's use of colours and think about how it makes you feel!