

## **Aesthetic Scanning**

*For students in grades 4-12*



### **Learning Objectives:**

- To introduce students to a process for observing and investigating artworks
- To engage students in the exhibition
- To promote discussion and response to the experience of art

### **Materials:**

- Worksheet with prompts
- Clipboards
- Pencils

### **Process:**

1. Introduce students as a group to the exhibit. Before the visit, discuss the exhibit description and predict what the experience might include.
2. Upon arrival at the exhibition, introduce the scope of the exhibit, select 2-3 artworks to model the process of aesthetic scanning.
  - a. Ask student to look at the artwork closely.
    - i. First, ask them to think scientifically. If you were describing this artwork to someone on the phone, what would you say? "Let's make a list together: What do you notice about how the artwork is made? What colors are included? Lights or darks? What recognizable shapes? People, animals, objects? Time of day? Other details?"
    - ii. Next, what associations, thoughts, and/or feelings come to your mind? Do the shapes, colors or characters you noticed suggest a story or idea?
    - iii. And then, what do you think the artist is trying to say or evoke? Why?
    - iv. Finally, if you could speak with the artist, what questions would you pose?
3. Ask students to each select a specific artwork in the exhibition.
  - a. Ask them to complete the exhibit worksheet responding to the same above prompts.
  - b. Ask students to then make a drawing in response to the artwork. Give the drawing a title that is not the title of the original artwork.
  - c. Gather the group together and ask them to present their drawing, title, and their response to the question, "What do you think the artist is trying to say or evoke? Why?"