

See and Do Introduction.

WELCOME TO PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM

Welcome to Palm Springs Art Museum!

We are excited to share with you works of art and architecture from our collection and hope you enjoy creating your own pieces inspired by what you learn.

Each Art Portfolio is divided into two lessons. In the first lesson, you will be introduced to an artwork from the collection and the artist who created it. This is followed by questions where you can share your ideas about what you have learned.

In the second lesson, you will create a work of art using similar processes and supplies as the artist.

We hope you have fun exploring the museum's collection and would like to encourage you to get creative! Then come visit us at the museum where you can see these works in person and share what you learned with friends and family.

Land Acknowledgement.

Every community in the United States owes its existence and vitality to people from around the world. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn here in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Recognition of the many layers of our history is critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and differences.

Palm Springs Art Museum respectfully acknowledges the ancestral homelands of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the other sovereign Indian Nations of Southern California. We recognize their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to this land—past, present, and future.

Lesson 1: The Artist as an Observer.

WHAT IS AN ARTIST, AND WHY IS THEIR JOB IMPORTANT?

Artists are observers, thinkers, and makers. Artists can work with different materials, which are referred to as *media*. Artists include painters and photographers, as well as those who work in other forms including drawing, sculpture, and video. They can be self-taught or go to school to develop their skills. Not even the best artists start off as masters; they practice and study their craft. If you are interested in art and like to create, you can be an artist too!

One thing that artists have in common is that they examine the world around them and communicate their ideas through creative expression. Artists are creative thinkers, meaning that they come up with new ideas and ways of seeing and understanding the world. Many new styles of art and discoveries began with a creative thought.

Artists whose artworks are included in the Palm Springs Art Museum often represent an important idea or show a different way of examining and understanding the world. They have practiced looking closely and sometimes see things that others might overlook. In their practices, they might also use their own experiences to communicate ideas. Through their unique ways of showing the world, artists can use their works to tell stories of our past and present—and help us consider the future. Artists might also reflect stories similar to our own that help us better understand ourselves and others.

Practicing observation and creative thinking skills can also be applied to other areas of study. Sir Isaac Newton was a creative thinker who expanded upon what he was taught in school and what he observed in nature to develop new ways of understanding the world. Newton's work advanced new fields of mathematics, provided our modern understanding of *color theory*, and developed

physics to explain how the universe behaves. His findings paved the way for the Scientific Revolution that led to many discoveries that are still used today. While Newton was not an artist in the traditional sense, his practice of observing the world around him and his use of creative ways of thinking led to new discoveries and creative solutions that changed the world.

The artist Enrique Martínez Celaya studied science before he decided to become an artist. Born in Palos, Cuba, Celaya and his family immigrated to Madrid in 1972, and in 1975 to Puerto Rico. He then moved to the United States, where he studied physics, before turning to art and earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from University of California Santa Barbara in 1994.

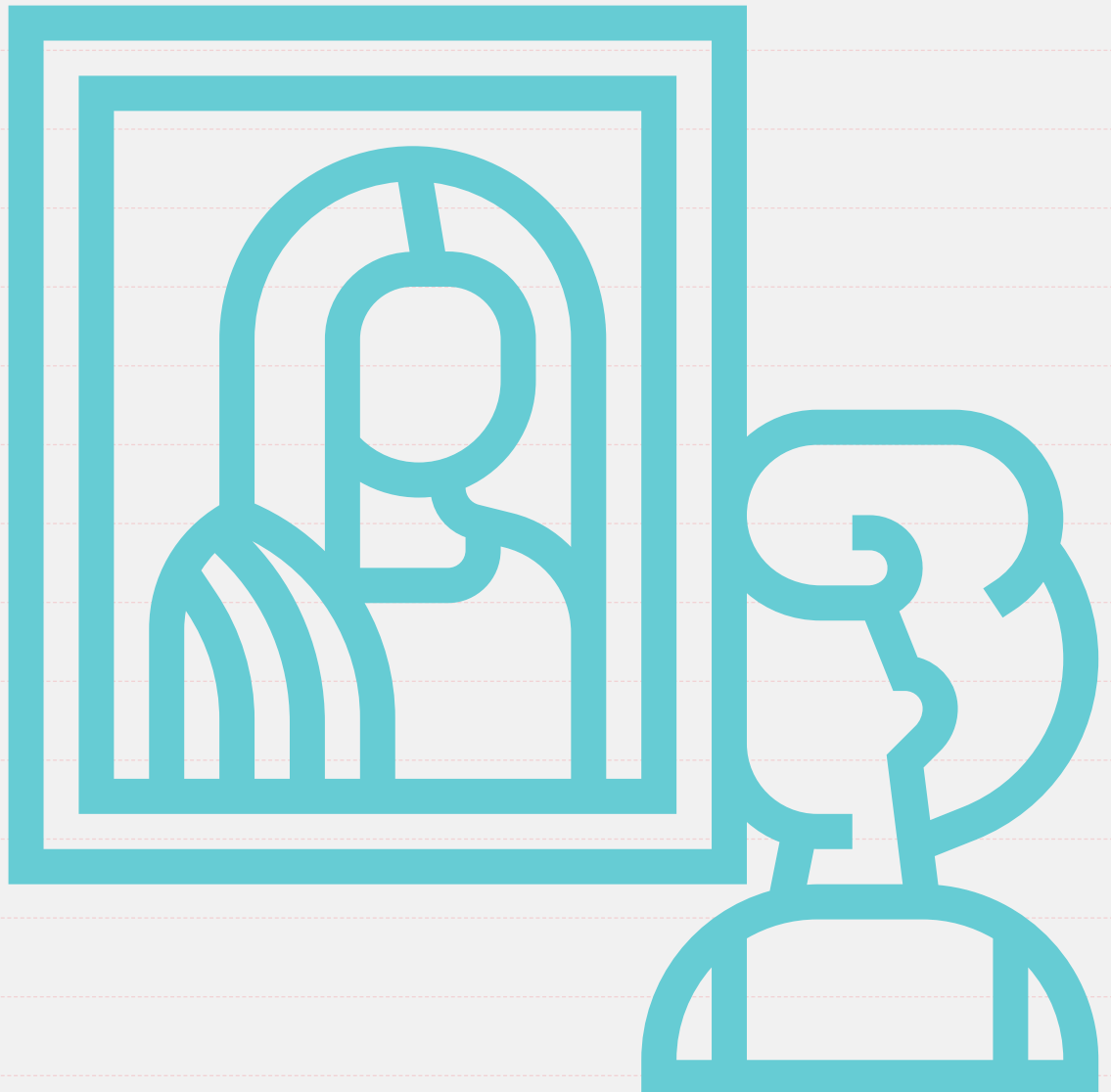
It is perhaps through his studies and interest in science that he learned to examine the world closely so that he could better understand the natural world, which is a *theme* he explores in his artistic practice.

Elements from nature—including trees and birds—are the subjects of Celaya's works. He observed these subjects and often rendered them small or life size in a small portion of a large canvas, giving a sense of closeness with the subject. Because his subjects tend to be small, the viewer is required to get up close to the canvas to see the detail.

Celaya has examined the natural world and used scientific exactness to create a realistic *image*. When looked at closely, the bird may appear to be so realistic that it seems to be a photograph. A closer look reveals that it is sitting on a branch that looks drawn with pencil.

Celaya often adds different elements to his work that act as physical tools, including *collaged elements*, slits, *appliqué*, or other changes to the canvas. In his painting titled *Bird*, he has added fabric “tassels” at the corners to remind us that while we might be looking at a realistic image of a bird, it is not real—it is just a painting.

The artist has said about this work that the “bird creates a moment for me. It is a demanding painting and a quiet one at the same time... A moment where there is a gap in consciousness or emotion. To me, the painting is moving and it should not be. This is its mystery.”



LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW!

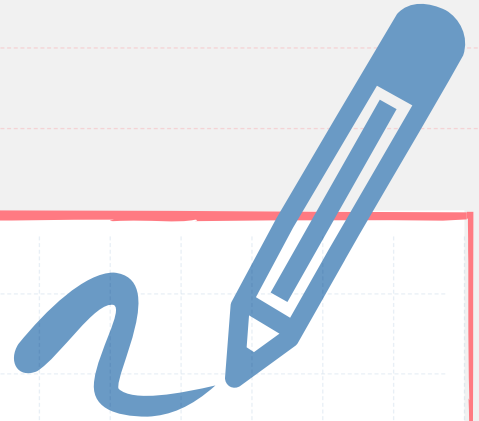
When visiting the Palm Springs Art Museum, there are a few things to look for when observing a work of art.

1

The first thing that might catch your attention is the artwork itself. Take a look at the overall painting on the next page. Think about color, shape, and size.

2

Describe what you see below.

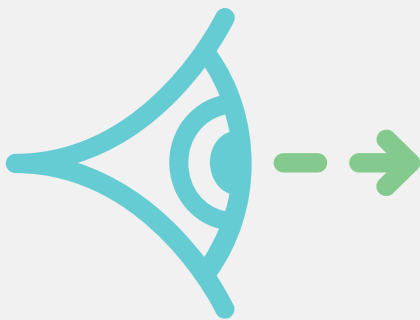




Above: Enrique Martínez Celaya (American, born Cuba, 1964), *Bird*, 1996, oil and fabric on canvas, 72 × 60 1/8 inches.
Museum purchase with funds provided by the Contemporary Art Council, 6–1997

3

**Examine the close-up below. What details do you see?
What meaning or story do you think the painting *Bird* tells?**



4

The second thing you might notice is text next to the artwork. In a museum, this text is near the object it belongs to and is called a *label*. It usually has details about the artist and the art work, including:

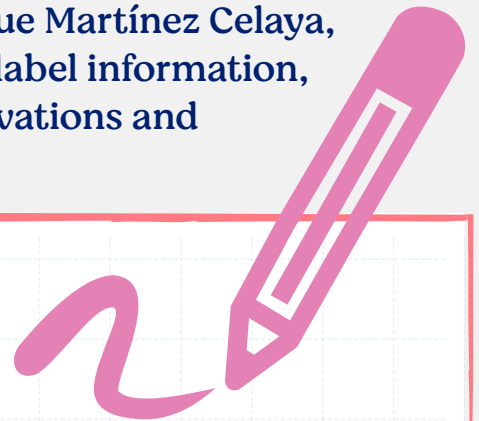
1. Artist's full name
2. Country where artist was born
3. Artist's birth year
(and death year, if no longer living)
4. Artwork title
5. Year it was made
6. Material
7. Size
8. Donor (person who gave the work to the Museum) or Source of funds to purchase the work of art
9. Museum Number

5

Take a look at the text below Celaya's *Bird* and practice rewriting the label information.

1. Artist's full name _____,
2. Nationality (country where the artist was born) _____,
3. Birth year _____,
4. Artwork title _____,
5. Year it was made _____,
6. Material _____,
7. Size _____,
8. Donor or Source of Funds _____,
9. Museum Number _____.

Now that you know a little more about the artist Enrique Martínez Celaya, have closely examined the painting, and have read the label information, write a few sentences describing *Bird* using your observations and label information above.



Glossary

APPLIQUÉ When fabric is added for decoration to a larger piece of cloth.

COLOR THEORY The visible spectrum of colors that are represented on the color wheel; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo (blue), and violet (purple). These colors are also identified by their first letters in the acronym ROYGBIV.

COLLAGE A work of art composed of various materials such as photographs or magazine clippings that are attached to a backing like a canvas or paper.

IMAGE The visual likeness of a person, animal, place, or thing represented in media such as painting, drawing, or photography.

LABEL Information about an object in the museum that identifies key information, including the maker's name, nationality, birth year, title, year it was made, material, size, donor or source of funds to purchase the work, and museum number.

MEDIUM The material that is used to create a work of art such as paint, pencil, or photograph. (The plural of "medium" is "media.")

MUSEUM NUMBER A numbering system that identifies every object in a museum's collection; often written as a number sequence that identifies the year the work entered the collection and the order or sequence of the addition.

THEME A subject, topic or characteristic that represents an idea.



Lesson 2: Get Inspired by Enrique Martínez Celaya

Supplies

- Pencils, Eraser, Drawing Paper
- Coloring supplies such as markers, pencils, or crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

- Now is your chance to be an observer and then create your own work of art.
- Look around you for inspiration, and then choose your subject matter to draw.
- Be on the lookout for things that you find interesting or have meaning to you. You might look for ideas from nature while looking out your window, such as plants, birds, or insects. Or you might observe things you find around you, like houseplants, pets, or items in your workspace.



Step 2

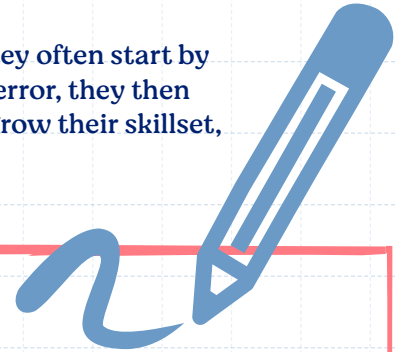
- Once you have selected your subject matter, carefully look at your object. Focus on the details, as well as how it looks altogether. Carefully observe your subject from different sides; also look up close, from far away, maybe even from up above or down low.



See and Do. Lesson 2, The Artist as an Observer.

Step 3

- With your pencil and sketching paper, draw what you see.
- The purpose of sketching is not to make a perfect drawing, but to practice observing and expressing what you see. You might even discover things about your object that you overlooked at first glance. Try a few sketches in the boxes below.
- Remember, there are no mistakes in art, instead only opportunities to learn from different experiments. When drawing your subject the next time, try to discover what worked and what did not work in your previous sketches.
- Artists do not always create a masterpiece on their first try. They often start by sketching and writing out ideas to practice. Through trial and error, they then develop their final work. This is also how artists improve and grow their skillset, similar to how athletes practice drills to improve their game.



1

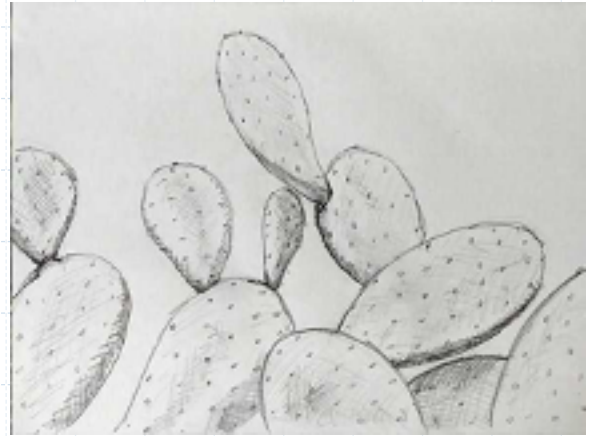
2

3

4

Step 4

- Select your favorite sketch and use what you have learned to create a final image on your drawing paper. Then add color with crayons, colored markers, or pencils.



Step 5

- Once your work is complete, write the label information at the bottom or on the backside of your artwork. Include your full name, nationality, birth year, title, year it was made, material, and size.
- Take time to think about your title. It might describe your subject, or it could just be its name. The title is one of the most important things about the label information, so it should be underlined when handwritten.

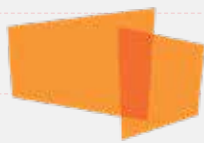


Tom Johnson, American, 1960, *Dancing Cacti*, 2020, pastel on paper, 8.5 x 11 inches.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why did you choose your subject?
- Closely observe your artwork. How would you describe it?
- What was your process like from sketching to your final drawing?
- Does your drawing have a special meaning or tell a story?

See and Do. Lesson 2, The Artist as an Observer.



**Palm Springs
Art Museum**

California Arts Standards for Visual Arts
(Lessons also integrate the
Common Core State Standards)

3.VA:Cr2.1, 4.VA:Cr2.1, 5.VA:Cr2.1

3.VA:Re7.1, 4.VA:Re7.1, 5.VA:Re7.1

3.VA:Re7.2, 4.VA:Re7.2, 5.VA:Re7.2

Palm Springs Art Museum's Education Program for elementary school children is generously supported by the Richard Brooke Foundation. Funding is also provided by the Helzel Family Foundation, Anderson Children's Foundation, Palm Springs Unified School District, and US Bank.