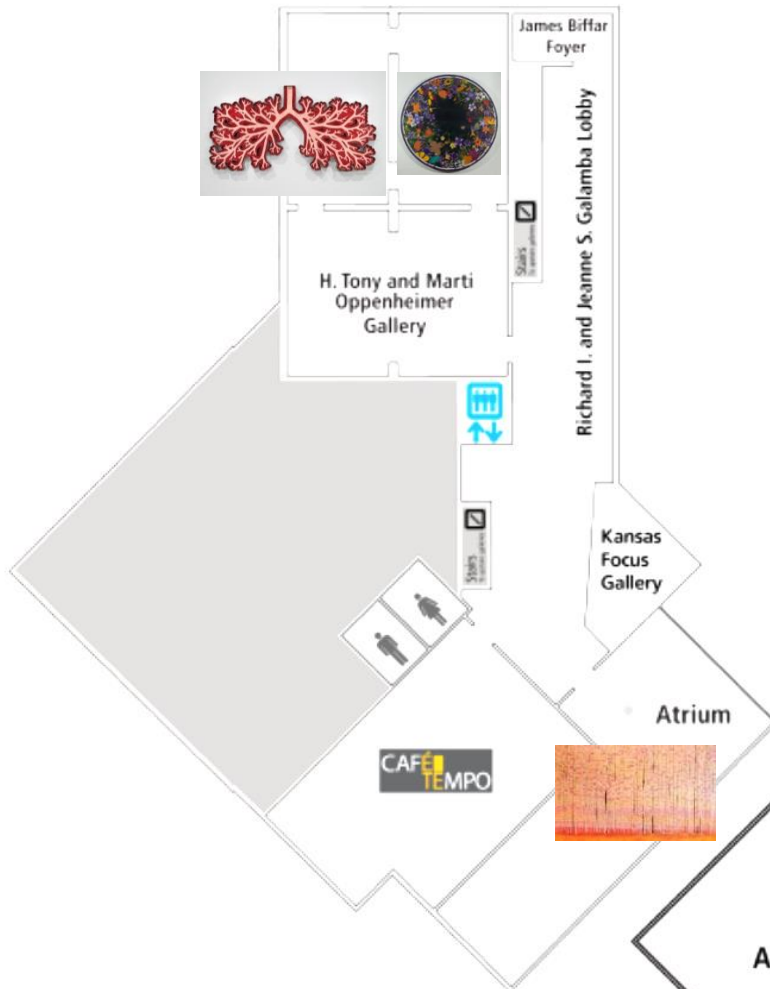
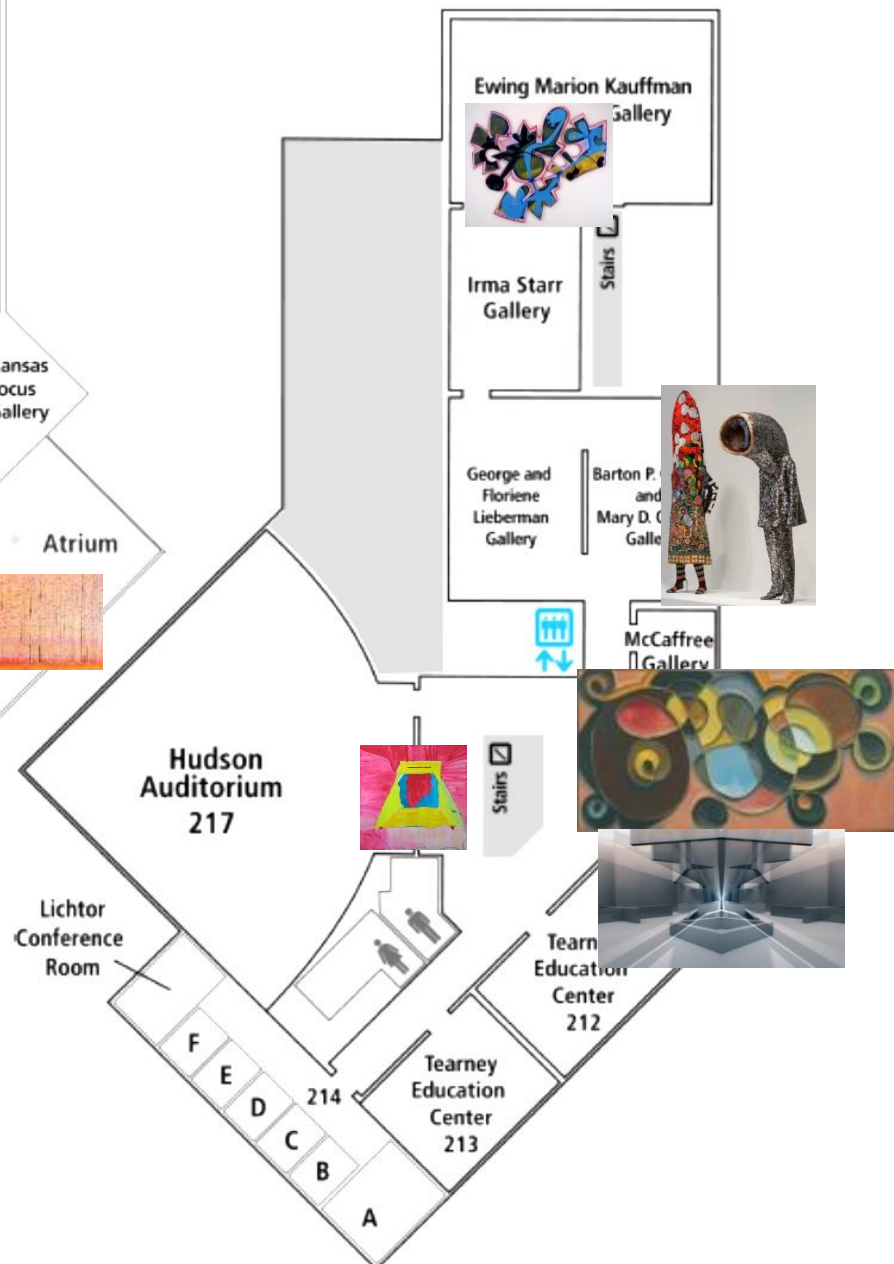


Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

First Floor



Second Floor





Benjamin Butler (American, b. 1975) *Fifty-five Trees at Sunset*, 2006, Oil on canvas

String art: make some trees of your own!

SORT the shoelaces from longest to shortest.

3 children start with several trunks. Lay down the 3 **LONGEST** strings on the floor next to one another.

3 children use shorter strings to branch out – where do your branches overlap? What other branches do you see inside the atrium? What about outside?



Pass around samples: **dry brush** technique





Leo Villareal (American, b. 1967) *Microcosm*, 2007, 12,000 LED Nodes (each with 5 LED bulbs), circuitry

- The ceiling outside a building is a surprising place for an artwork, isn't it?
- What is this artwork made of? *Light bulbs, metal*
- It makes our eyes move to different spots, doesn't it?
- How does the artwork **change** as you watch it?
Speed, some movement out of center, some from one side to another...
- What does the artwork remind you of?
Fireflies, fireworks, clouds, water, stars, outer space...

Leo makes computer programs for his sculptures so they are **animated** with flashing and fading shapes and patterns. He made this especially for the museum when it opened almost 8 years ago.

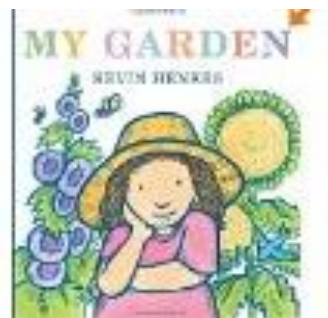
ACTIVITY: *Pass around flashlights and have students line up facing the wall inside.*

Everyone try making **BIG** circles. Then make small **circles**.

Then make **lines** moving up and down. Then side to side.

Then make fast movement!

Everyone make sloooooowww movements.



Let's line up and walk carefully into the next room. We can have a seat on the floor next to the **magic rope.**

Read My Garden by Kevin Henkes.

Amir H. Fallah (Iranian American, b. 1979)

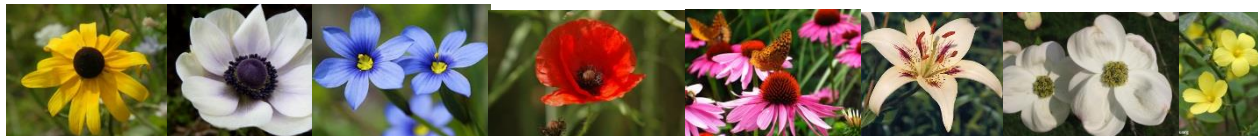
Mother of the West, 2015

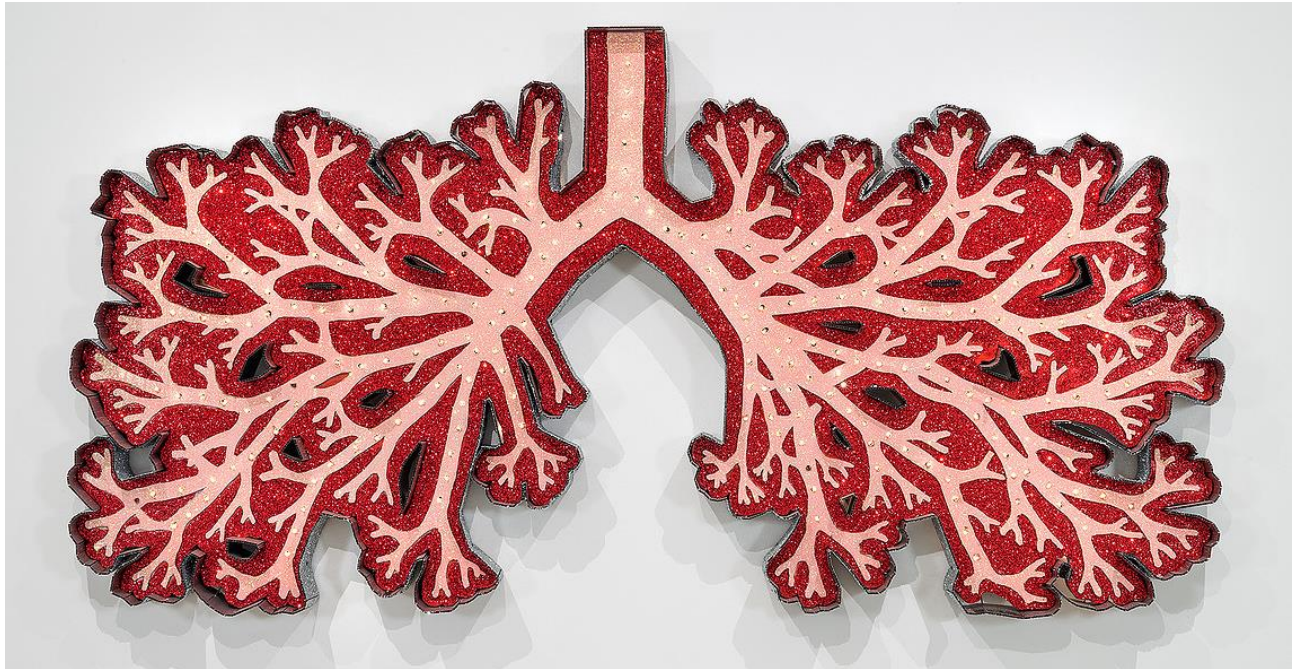
Acrylic, collage, colored pencil and spray paint on paper mounted to canvas

ACTIVITY: pass out one of the photos from the flower hunt to each child, and ask each child take a turn and tell what part of the painting looks like their flower. These are all plants that grow in Missouri and Kansas.

- Which flowers look like your flowers?
- Are they the same color as your picture, or are they different?
- Besides the yellow garden spider, what creatures do you see? *Moths, a caterpillar...*

Some of Amir's flowers are photos on paper. He also painted some and used the computer to change some of the photos.





Rear gallery: once again, we need to be careful to stay in line and keep our hands still in front of our bodies. Cross your arms, line up and follow me!

Dylan Mortimer (American, b. 1979)

I Want More Air, 2015

Foam, corrugated plastic, glitter, Christmas lights

- Do you see any other art in this room that are plugged in, or is it the only one?
- Besides the lights, what else makes this artwork glow? Glitter!

- This artwork is almost exactly the same if you divide it down the middle, isn't it?

Take a piece of corrugated cardboard and bend it into a circle on the floor in front of you.

Then, try a triangle.

How about a square?

Next, try a spiral.

Then make an imaginary shape.

Look at your neighbor's shape.

- What does it remind you of?
- How is theirs different from yours?

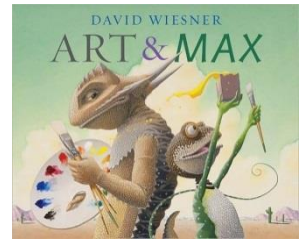
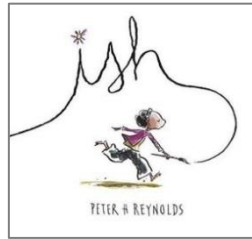


Take a deep breath with your hand on your chest, feel how your lungs get bigger when they fill with air. Look at the picture of the human respiratory system. These are bronchial tubes.

Note to teachers: Dylan lives in Kansas City, and his whole life he had some serious health issues with a disease that bothered his lungs (cystic fibrosis). He said that kids call it "Sixty Five Roses." The doctors were helping him feel better, and when he made this sculpture, he was hoping and praying for a miracle. He had an operation and received new lungs earlier this year and he is feeling great now!

What do these **abstract** paintings remind you of?

READ *Art and Max* OR *Ish*.



Line up and have a seat in front of this HUGE painting.

Anton Henning (German, b. 1964)

Interieur No. 362, 2006

Oil on canvas

- The **lines** are not straight, are they? Let's practice making some lines of our own.

ACTIVITY: *distribute a piece of string or yarn to each child; have them experiment on the floor in front of them: try making curving lines (big curves and small curves) loops, circles, etc. and try overlapping!*



- This is an **asymmetrical** design, isn't it? What does **asymmetrical** mean?
- Let's look closely at each corner. How is each corner different?
- Where do you see **shading/shadows**?
- The color **values** within the shapes, and the **overlapping lines** make the illusion that this artwork is 3-D, don't they?

Walk in a single file line and have a seat in front of this painting. Read [Mouse Paint](#).



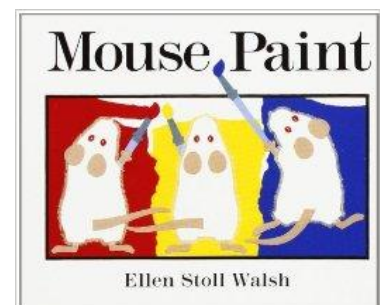
Andrzej Zielinski (American, b. 1976)
Yellow Industrial Paper Shredder, 2009-2010
Acrylic on panel

- This **abstract** painting is a giant square, isn't it?
- What colors do you mix to get pink?

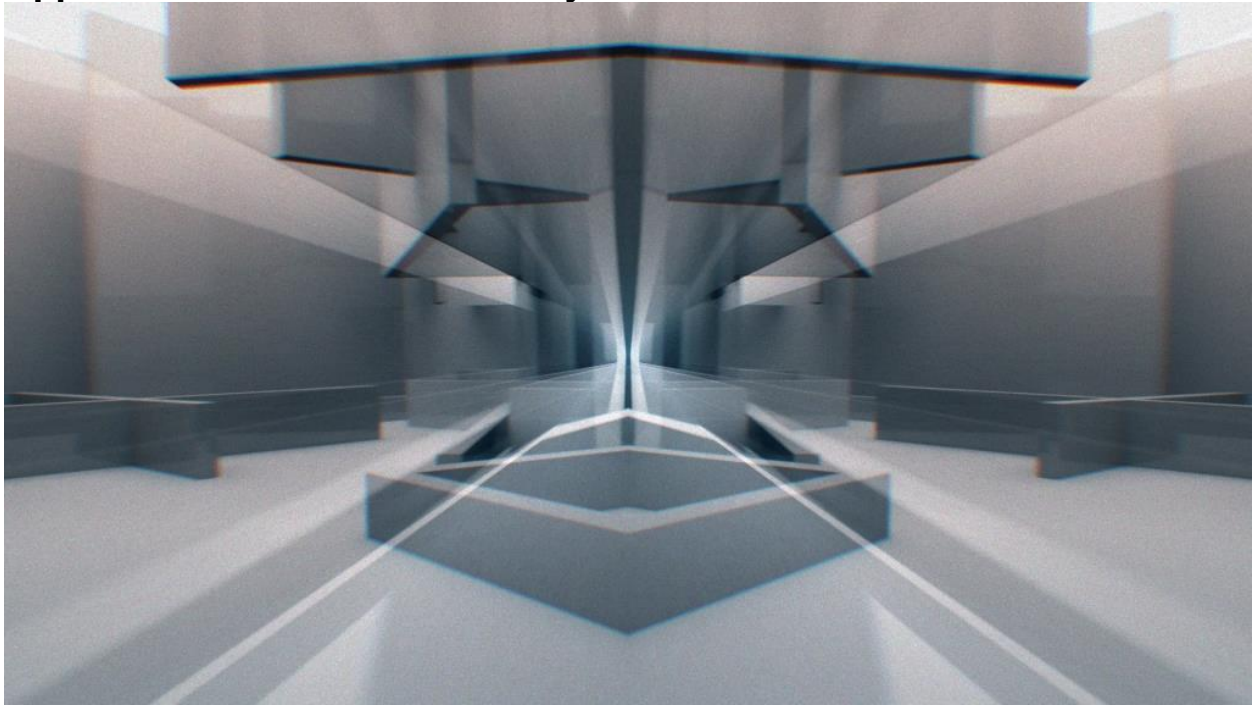
Red, yellow, and blue mix to make other colors.

Andrzej likes to make his paintings bumpy. [Feel the example of the bumpy paint.](#)

- Look at the long blue electric cord. What kind of machine is this? [See photo of paper shredder.](#)



Oppenheimer New Media Gallery



Barry Anderson (American, b. 1969)

Fragments of Space (Dazzling), 2017

HD video animation with sound, 3:40, shown in continuous loop, Edition 1 of 2

LOAN courtesy the artist

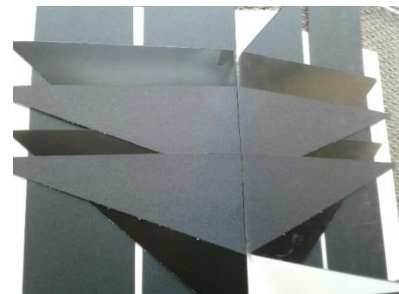
This video is an **abstract** artwork, so we might each see different images as we use our imaginations.

- Is this an inside **space**, or an outside **space**? How can you tell?
- Is it the same on both sides like a mirror, or is it different?
- What does the **music** make you feel?

Movement: Get in a single file line and stand in the center of the room with your body still, and then move your arms in the directions the shapes move.

- Is it moving fast or slow?

Use a couple of big poster board shapes and stack them up. Take a plastic mirror and hold it next to the shapes. Now what does it look like?



Let's have a seat facing the colorful painting over here. Read *The Little Smudge*.



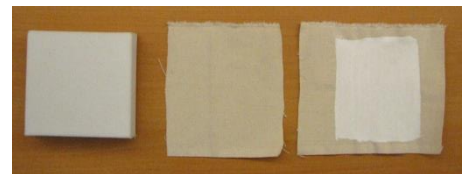
Elizabeth Murray (American, b. 1940, d. 2007)

Landing, 1999

Oil on four canvases

- There is pink all around the edges, isn't there?
- What other **colors** do you see? *Greens, yellow, black, blue*
- Where do you see colors of paint mixed together? *Dark green and light green, pink and blue...*
- How do the 4 parts of this painting fit together?

Most of the paintings we see are square or rectangle, but Elizabeth had her canvas made into special **shapes**. *Pass around a mini stretched canvas.*



Let's line up and have a seat on the floor in front of these two sculptures:

- How are the two alike?
- The feet make us think there is a life-sized human body inside, don't they?
- Do you think a person wearing this would be able to see out, or not?

Nick Cave (American b. 1959)

Soundsuit, 2011

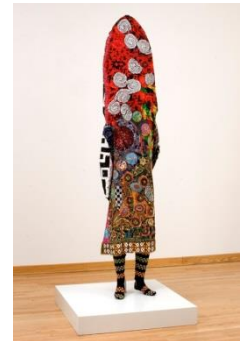
Buttons, wire, bugle beads, basket, upholstery and mannequin



Nick Cave (American, b. 1959)

Soundsuit, 2006

Found sequined and beaded materials, hand sewn, mixed media, mannequin and armature



- This sculpture is very **colorful**, isn't it?
- What bright **color** takes up most of the top part? *Red*
- Besides the spirals, what do you see in the red part? *Flowers, leaves...*
- Where else do you see flowers? *Bottom edge, middle parts, embroidered and beaded...*
- How is the back side **different** from the front? *Black and white with rectangles, all sequins...*

Ask the children to take turns, stand one at a time, and look carefully with their hands behind their backs, being careful to not get too close to the walls with artwork.

- How do the socks match the outfit? What colors match? *Gold circles, green, blue, red, black*

I've got some glitter socks you can feel! Put your hand inside like a sock puppet.

I've got a picture of a dancer wearing a similar sculpture.

Nick Cave lives in Chicago, and when he was growing up he had six brothers, and he was second oldest, so he wore lots of hand-me-down clothes. Now he reuses clothes he buys in thrift stores in his artworks. Some of his other soundsuits have toys and fibers and other fun things hanging off the body.



Listen to the sound the raffia bundle makes when you shake it, and imagine what it would be like to wear a whole suit made of raffia.

LAPTOP: Watch the Youtube video of his performance at Kansas City Art Institute's 125th anniversary. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isyJKJaozK0>