

Welcome kids and parents!

3-D Art Hunt

Self-Guided Tour Activity



Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

Johnson County Community College

3-D Art Hunt: Self-Guided Tour Activity

For children ages 5 and older with adults. Allow approximately 40 minutes to complete. Use a pencil to write your ideas.



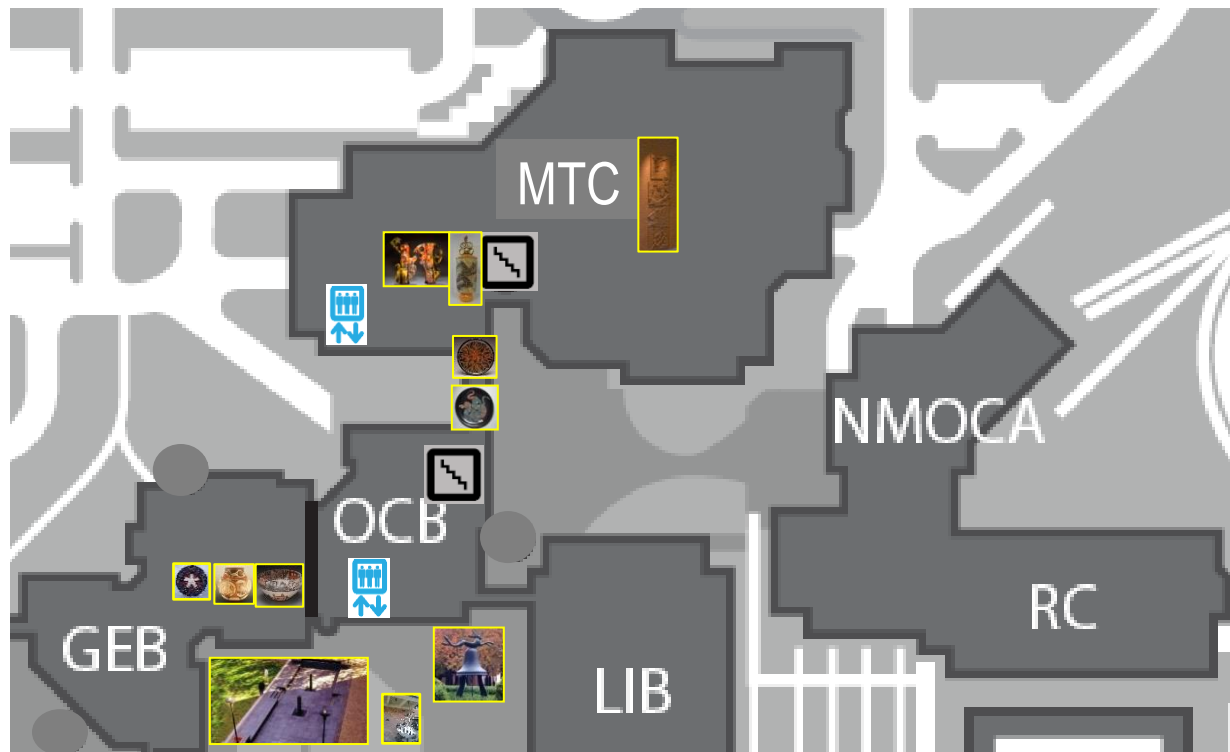
Welcome to the **Nerman Museum** at JCCC!

This activity features 3-dimensional artworks in the museum's collection on campus in buildings and outside. The artworks are all identified by wall labels, and you can choose the order you want to follow.

JCCC is a **college** (where grown-ups go to school) and there are people going to class and working, so we need to stay together and use indoor voices in the hallways. We also need to remember to look closely at the art, but we cannot touch it: let's keep our hands to ourselves and stay about 3 steps back from the art, walls, and glass cases.

A **museum collection** is a special group of objects, we are responsible for sharing and protecting the artwork, so we want to do our part to keep the artworks clean and safe for years to come.

Contemporary art usually means the artist who made it is still alive and may be your parent's age or your grandparents' age. Some of the artworks we'll see today may be younger than you!



This activity includes **10** of the **350+** artworks from the museum's collection on permanent display at JCCC. These artworks are always on view, even when the museum galleries are closed. Use this map to find

2 sculptures outside in the Fountain Courtyard by the Library
A basket and 2 clay artworks inside the GEB and OCB 1st floor hallway
2 clay artworks in the 2nd floor bridge between the OCB and MTC
2 clay artworks in the MTC 1st floor landing, and **wall artwork** in the lobby.



Barry Flanagan (British, b. 1941-d. 2010)
Hare and Bell, 1988

Let's walk all the way around the sculpture and look up at it from all sides.

We say **texture** when we talk about the way a surface on an artwork feels to the touch. Sometimes we can describe a texture just by looking. Besides the *smooth texture* of the bell, what other textures do you see in the artwork?

Is this sculpture made of **metal** or **wood**? (underline your answer) How can you tell?

What kind of monument or building do you think of when you see a big bronze bell?

Does this sculpture seem serious like other types of monuments that might have bells, or is it more playful?

Barry was a famous artist who lived in Ireland, and he made playful sculptures showing rabbits in different poses. Some are boxing, some are dancing, and others are flying!

Chelsy Walker (American)

Baked in a Pie, 2018

Temporary student sculpture project

What discarded materials do you see in the pie sculpture in the Fountain Courtyard?

The birds flying out of the metal pie have **found objects** and cast human feet! She used old campus light poles. This artwork references a poem:

Sing a Song of Sixpence, nursery rhyme by Mother Goose

Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing—
Wasn't that a dainty dish
To set before the king?

The king was in the counting-house
Counting out his money,
The queen was in the parlor
Eating bread and honey,

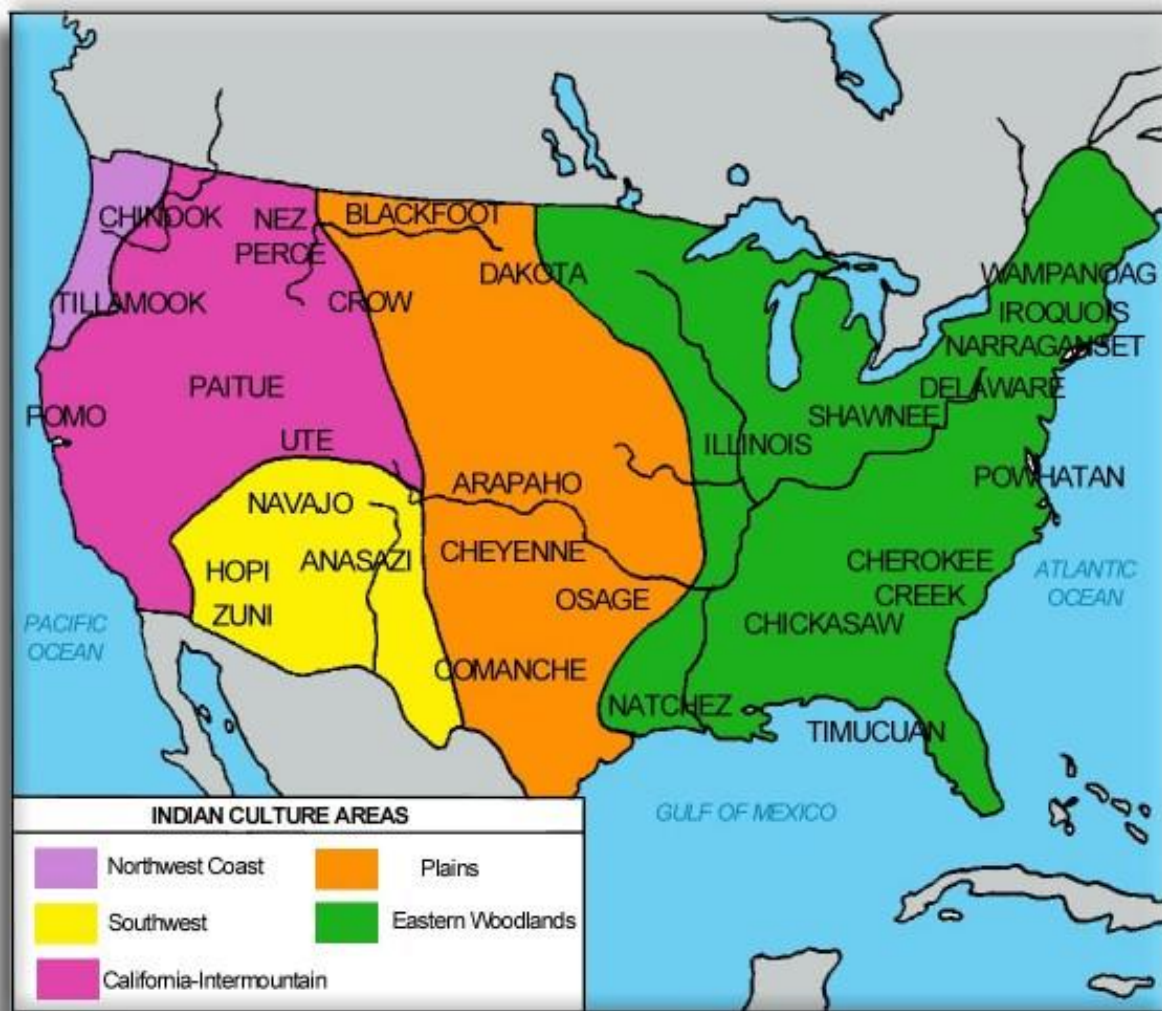
The maid was in the garden
Hanging out the clothes.
Along came a blackbird
And snipped off her nose.

If you could design your own mobile sculpture, what would the dangling parts look like?





The 1st floor east GEB hallway has a new display of American Indian artworks from our museum's collection. Many art forms from different cultures are represented. Look for the Navajo section:



Joann Johnson (American Indian, Navajo, b. 1964)
Shiprock, 2010

Symmetry connects math and art. An artist might use shapes and lines that are the same only flipped or reflected.

What type of **symmetry** has elements radiating out from the center? **Bilateral** or **Radial**

What designs are **repeated**? _____

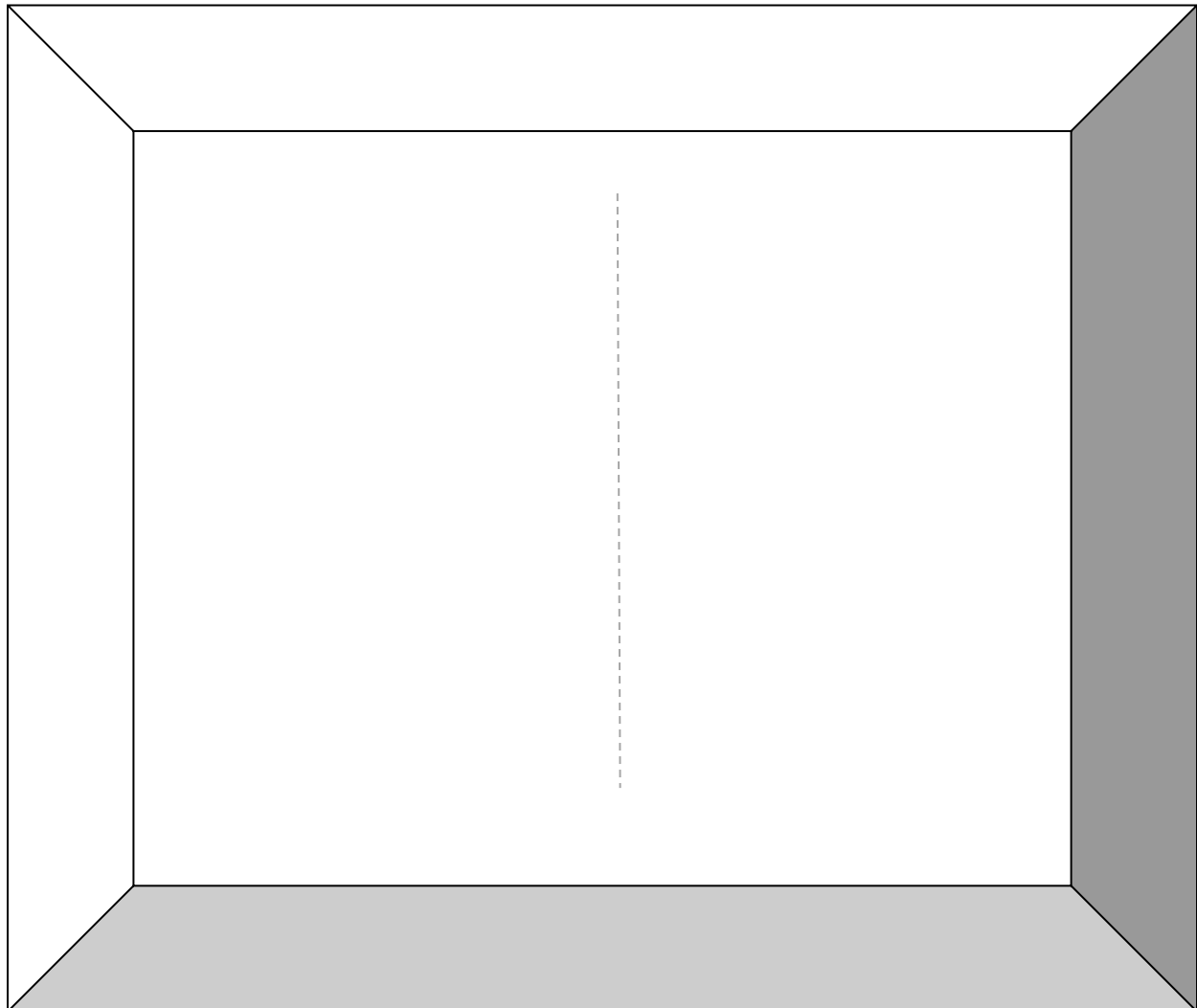
Is the design painted on the surface, or was it woven into the structure? (underline your answer)

This basket and the other Navajo baskets have a **coiled** structure. Look for a coil in the center of each of them.

What do people usually do with baskets? How are they used? _____

What other types of objects are woven? _____

Draw your own imaginary basket including **symmetrical designs**:



How are these 2 pots similar?

What are some differences?

Lois Gutierrez (American Indian, Pojoaque / Santa Clara Pueblo, b. 1949)
Avanyu Pot, 2014

What grabs your attention when you look at this pot?

Do you think the animal painted around the top is based on nature, or is it a mythical creature?

The *avanyu* **water serpent** shows the importance of water in the desert pueblo cultures.

Which parts of the design are **symmetrically** balanced?

The big curves on each of the four sides emphasize the curves in the body of the pot, don't they? The curve design on each of the 4 sides around the body of the pot makes circular shapes called **medallions**.

The clusters of 6 semicircles represent **clouds**. Inside each medallion we see zig zag lines like **rain** coming down from the clouds, and the other part of the design represents **corn**.

How are the 4 corn **patterns** unique? (HINT: Look at the diamond shapes with the orange zig zag, and think about how each group is a little different)

If you were going to decorate a pot with a design inspired by nature, what plants or animals would you use in your pattern? Sketch a **repeating motif** of your own design:



Robert Tenorio (American Indian, Santo Domingo Pueblo, b. 1950)
Pictorial Dough Bowl, 2001

Describe the scene shown here. What is going on?

Outside:

Inside:

Trains represent the influence of European-American culture to the Southwest, and American Indian artists sold their pottery, blankets and silver jewelry at train stations.

Do you think the train is supposed to be flying through the air, or did the artist slit the pot into two **ground lines**, like a comic strip? These are called **registers**.

Besides the gray of the pot, what colors do you see? _____

Do these people look like they were based on people in real life, or are they more cartoonish?

This was made in 2001...do you think the images are historic , or recent, or both?

Have you ever traveled somewhere special? Try to remember some details about your journey. Who was with you, and what did you see and do when you arrived?

Sketch a comic strip using these squares. Think about **character**, **setting** and **action**.

What happens first?

What happens next?

What happens last?

Victor Babu (American, b. 1936 – d. 2019)

Untitled, 1990

Victor lived in Kansas City, and some of his other clay artworks have flower designs.

This clay plate has designs painted with colorful glaze on a flat surface, doesn't it?

Besides the orange-red, what other **colors** do you see? _____

What **patterns** do you see on the snakes' bodies? _____

Are the **lines** mostly curved, straight, or both? (underline your answer)

Which parts of the snakes' faces stick out the most from the surface? _____

What kind of snakes are these? How can we tell? _____

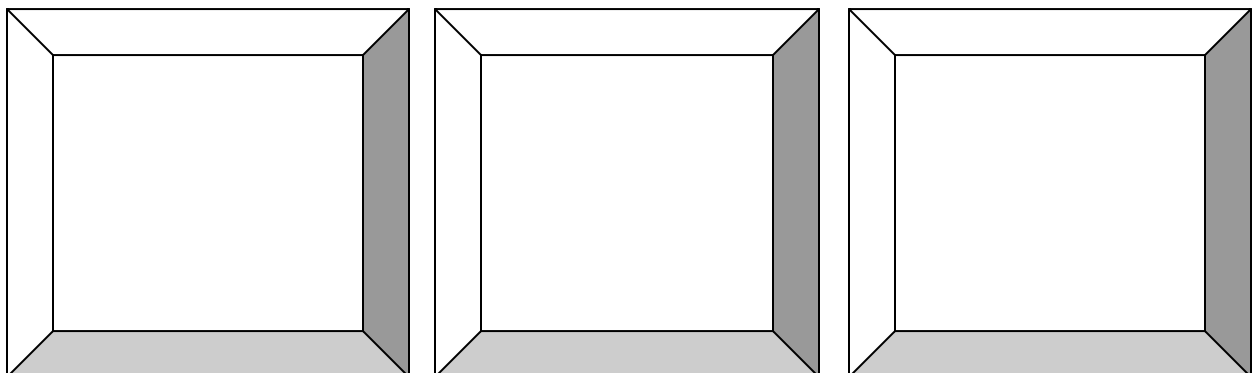
What feelings do we get when we see rattlesnakes in real life? _____

Rattlesnakes could be **symbols** of danger because we know they are poisonous. But in American history, they were symbols of courage for the 13 colonies. Snakes are also used in American symbols for medicine. Some American Indians see snakes as symbols for renewal and change because they shed their skin.

What other animals have special meaning? What characteristics make them special?



Sketch three different **patterns** you might see on an animal's skin.



Peter Wilkin (American, b. 1960)

Roots, 2004

Besides red, what **colors** of glaze do you see? _____
Red and green are opposites on the color wheel, so they create **simultaneous contrast** and make each other pop when we see them next to one another in an artwork.

Which is more shiny, the red / **positive space**, or black / **negative space**? _____

What kind of **texture** does the red part have? _____

Using your finger (careful to not touch the Plexiglas!) trace one of the lines out from the center. Where do you see parts that appear to be **overlapping**?

What does the **shape** remind you of in nature? _____

Peter lives right here in Kansas City, and he makes large platters or **chargers** that are **functional**, but most people choose to use them as wall decorations.



Jerry Rothman (American, b. 1933 – d. 2014)

Olympic Special, 1984

Besides “smooth,” what words would you use to describe the surface **textures**?

Is it the same all over, or are some parts different?

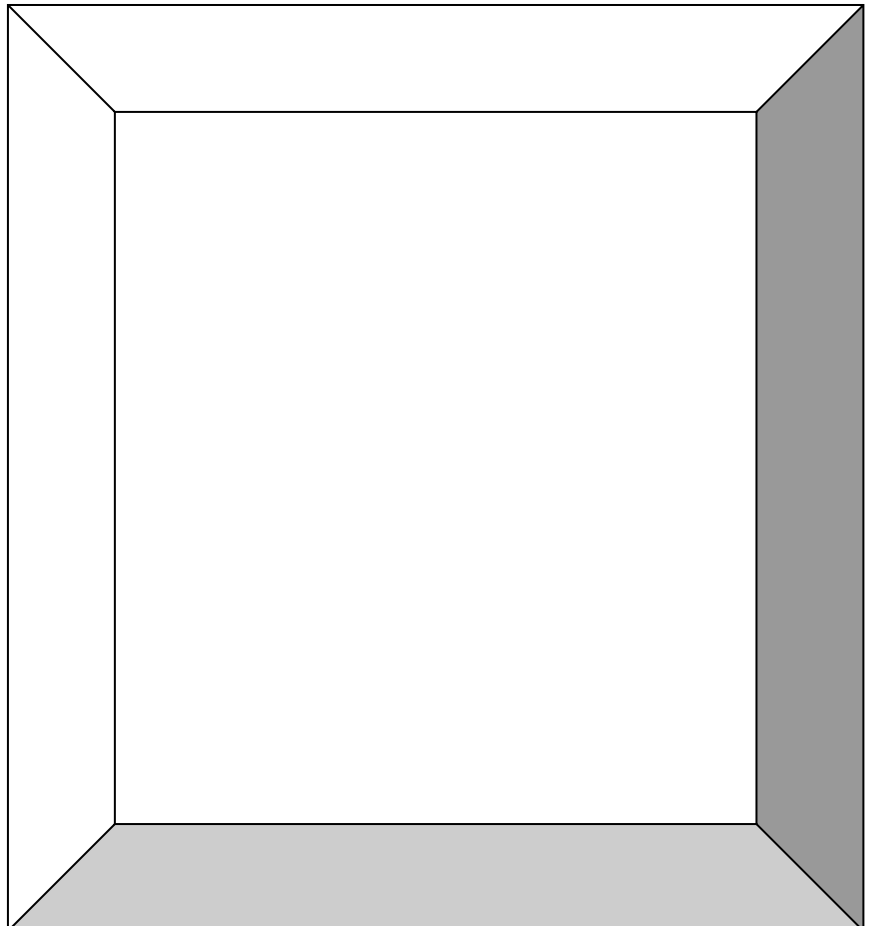
The overall **form** might remind you of a trophy, wouldn't you say?

1984 was a year the summer Olympics were held in Los Angeles. The torch was carried by relay all the way from New York City, across 33 states. Other than the five rings, what other symbol of the Olympics do you see?

The figure looks like it is running, doesn't it?

How did the artist use **line** to create a sense of **motion**?

Try sketching **lines** that show different kinds of movement: flowing, rolling, skipping...





Betty Woodman (American, b. 1930 – d. 2018)
Kimono Vases “Plum Blossom”, 1991

Why do you think these two artworks are in the same case?

These two pieces are not exactly the same, but they are a set, aren't they?

Where can you see the wall through **open spaces**?

This pair of **vessels** (a **vessel** is a sculpture used to hold things, like a vase, basket, or bowl) is from a series Betty called “Japanese ladies”. How might these 2 vessels look like 2 ladies? What body parts could you imagine moving within the **forms**?

Using a sharp tool, Betty cut slabs for side pieces out of a larger plate, attached them to stacked **cylinders** by scratching the connecting edges (called **scoring**) and “gluing” them with watered down clay (called **slip**). Then she glazed it with many **colors**.

Donna Dobberfuhr (American, b. 1949)

Mise en Scene, 1990

These sculptures look like they are part of the walls, don't they?

Do you think they are made of clay, metal, or wood?

(underline your answer)

We call this type of sculpture **relief sculpture**, because it is up against the wall so we cannot see it from all sides, but it has 3-D parts that stick out from the surface.

Light and dark **contrast** is important to the design, especially because the clay is all one color. Where does the **light** shine the brightest on the surface?

Look at all the sculptures on this wall. What **props** or objects did the artist include with the figures?

Are they all wearing the same kind of clothes, or do some look like costumes from history or other parts of the world?

What **shapes** did the artist use to frame the figures?

Besides the body parts on top of the frames, where do you see **overlapping**?

When you look closely at the sculptures from the side (if you stand near the wall), about how far do the figures pop out from the surface?

The artist named this sculpture *Mise en Scene* (say "mees on sen") which is French for "set the stage."

How does the sculpture's title relate to the activities that happen in this building?



What **performing arts** have you seen (or performed) on stage? (theater, dance, music)

Conclusion

What kinds of **materials** might a contemporary artist use to make a **sculpture**?

What kinds of 3-D materials have you worked with in school or at home?

Some of these materials are fragile and would not last long if they were put outside all day.

Three-dimensional artwork is all around us, and we see 3-D objects everyday that might have been made by a designer or an artist. Sculpture in public places can include anything from small plastic flamingoes in your front yard to the giant Mount Rushmore sculpture in South Dakota. Think about sculpture you might see every day, near your home or school, in your neighborhood, in the buildings you visit, or at places you go on vacation.

How can you learn more about it? Is there a website or brochure that tells us about it?

Draw a picture of a **sculpture** that inspires you.



At another time you might explore the Regnier Center hallways with American Indian and Latino Art, or the Painting collection focus areas in other buildings on campus.

Visit the **Nerman Museum** to see more of our permanent collection and also exhibitions that change every few months. The museum is FREE and you do not need to make an appointment to visit unless you have more than 10 people with your group.

We have fun art-making classes for youth on Saturdays throughout the school year and weekdays in the summer. Check out our website or call 469-2323 for more information.

Thank you for visiting, and we hope to see you again soon!



Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, JCCC www.nermanmuseum.org 913-469-3000

DRAFT* Prepared by Karen Gerety Folk, Curator of Education, 2022