

# Making the Modern World: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Big Ideas & Major Themes

Here's some information relating to your program to review with your students before visiting the museum.

- The idea of 'modernity' is not new—it has and continues to change over time.
- Western art went through a radical shift in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and the art we experience today continues to be impacted by it. There is no longer one dominant style of art.
- 'Modern' art is impacted by what came before it—in order to understand contemporary art we need to understand the historical and cultural contexts that it references.



James Brooks. V-1952. 1952.

## Standards Addressed

VAH1-4 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 6.2

## In the Classroom

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Encourage students to experiment with various techniques of applying paint, e.g. absorbing into unprimed canvas (paper towels also work well), drip painting, using fingers or other objects directly on the canvas.
- Examine a number works of art representing the same genre (e.g. still life or portraiture) that represent a variety of styles and eras. Have students make comparisons and analyze them using the formal elements of art. As an extension, have students create their own piece in one of these styles.
- Discuss the connections between visual art and what was happening around the world in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. (See the MOMA website for themes and visual inspiration.)
- As a group discuss the influence of Japanese prints on Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters. Have students create a visual response.

## Resources

Want to explore more? Use these references to learn and share information with your students.

- Philadelphia Museum Collection Search. <http://www.philamuseum.org/collections/search.html>
- What is Modern Art: MOMA. [https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art)
- Inspiration from Japan: Van Gogh Museum <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/stories/inspiration-from-japan#0>

## Museum Manners

Please review these guidelines with your students before your visit to the museum.

- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls in the galleries.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted in the galleries.
- Be careful where you walk! Try to stay at least arms-length from any work of art.
- No pens, backpacks or large bags are allowed in the galleries. Bring only what you need!

Questions? Contact us at 803.343.2163 or email [tours@columbiamuseum.org](mailto:tours@columbiamuseum.org)  
[columbiamuseum.org/learn](http://columbiamuseum.org/learn)

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