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 19th and 20th 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.

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 19th and early 20th 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.

- 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)