



Slow Art Day ~~Week~~

On your own! Friday, April 2–Saturday, April 10, 2021
@womeninthearts and **@slowartday**

Join us online for a virtual conversation about your independent looking experience!
Saturday, April 10, 2021, 1–2 p.m. eastern.

Registration is free and required for our virtual conversation:

https://nmwa-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuceqorjlqH9Zh_G7Fcs6lxPL5io0bf6xd

Dear friends and art lovers,

The National Museum of Women in the Arts is excited to host its 8th annual Slow Art Day. While the museum is open to visitors through a timed ticket system, we have decided to continue our virtual Slow Art Day tradition this year—both to remain socially distanced and safe and to welcome participants to our conversation from around the world.

All objects selected for consideration this year are currently on view at the museum AND accessible online: [2021 Slow Art Virtual Gallery](#)

[<https://nmwa.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-nmwa/images/assetbox/67e0a523-51c0-4be8-99c3-17e2564a1266/assetbox.html>]

If you live near and feel comfortable visiting the museum before our virtual gathering Saturday, April 10, check out <https://nmwa.org/visit/plan-your-visit/> to see our operating hours and reserve a timed ticket. Have the virtual gallery (or a printed hard copy) accessible during your visit so you know which works to spend time with.

Please join us for any or all of our Slow Art Week/Virtual Slow Art Day experiment. Here's how:

1. Gather materials: pen/pencil, paper, and a device with internet access. Optional: printer, phone with a camera, and art materials like colored pencils.
2. This year's theme "**(Anything But) Black and White**" is a reminder that life is rarely clear-cut and that we should seek to discover and embrace nuance, variety, and difference. Before you look at our selections, ponder the following questions and jot down your answers.
 - How might art help you appreciate perspectives other than your own?
 - What are your first impressions or assumptions based on? What do you need for your opinions to evolve or change?
 - Have you experienced a shift from binary to spectrum thinking about a topic in the last year? What influenced that change in thinking?

- How can we seek to “find the gray” in the world around us?

3. Consider this selection of 13 artworks: [2021 Slow Art Virtual Gallery](https://nmwa.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-nmwa/images/assetbox/67e0a523-51c0-4be8-99c3-17e2564a1266/assetbox.html) [<https://nmwa.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-nmwa/images/assetbox/67e0a523-51c0-4be8-99c3-17e2564a1266/assetbox.html>]

This link provides you access to a virtual gallery of artworks selected specifically for this experience. The works are presented chronologically and with captions. Caption information is similar to what you would see on a museum object label. It reveals context like the artist's name, artwork title, and materials used by the artist.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS DOWNLOAD ALL AS ZIP

2021 Slow Art Virtual Gallery Created by Adrienne Gayoso

Theme: (Anything But) Black and White

<p>932 Après la tempête (After the Storm) 2007.151 Sarah Bernhardt, Après la tempête (After the Storm), ca. 1876; White marble, 29 1/2 x 24 x 23 in.; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay</p>	<p>33975 2016.121a-b 2016.121a-b Kirsten Justesen, Sculpture #2, 1968/2010, Edition II, 1/5; Painted cardboard box and screened photograph, overall: 20 in x 24 in x 24 in.; Gift of Montana A/S</p>	<p>41942 Laurie in the Bathtub, Ward 81, Oregon State Hospital, Salem, Oregon 2020.28 Mary Ellen Mark, Laurie in the Bathtub, Ward 81, Oregon State Hospital, Salem, Oregon, 1976 (printed later); Gelatin silver print, 20 x 24 in.; NMWA, Gift of Susan and Earl Cohen; Photo by Lee Stalsworth; © Mary Ellen Mark/The Mary Ellen Mark Foundation Photographer: Lee Stalsworth</p>	<p>494 Two Generations 2001.132 Elizabeth Catlett, Two Generations, 1979; Lithograph on paper, 17 x 20 1/4 in.; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Dorothy Stauffer Lyddon</p>
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When you click on an image in the virtual gallery, you will be directed to a page like the one below. From there you can see a larger version of the artwork.

Advance to the next image in the virtual gallery by clicking on the arrow.

Two Generations

Title: Two Generations
 Accession Number: 2001.132
 Caption: Elizabeth Catlett, Two Generations, 1979; Lithograph on paper, 17 x 20 1/4 in.; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Dorothy Stauffer Lyddon

Download
 Alternative sizes:
 1200 @ 72 dpi (1358.0KB)

Click on the button at the bottom right of the screen to download the image.

If you have access to a printer, make your own in-home gallery! Print the works and post them in your home so that you can live with them for a few days.

4. After reviewing the options, **pick 5 artworks** that spark your curiosity. Your challenge: **spend 10 minutes looking closely at each** of your selections.

For each artwork, set a timer for 10 minutes and try to look at the piece for that whole time. Make mental or actual notes of your experience of slow looking: e.g. *reactions*, *observations*, and questions.

For a more structured experience, consider the following prompts. (Keep in mind there are no wrong answers or responses to artworks.)

Want some questions to *ponder* or *pose* about each artwork?

- What do you see? What do you think about what you see?
- What did you notice first? What did you discover after looking longer?
- What makes sense? What confuses you? What questions does this work elicit?
- Do you like this work more or less the longer you spend with it? Why?
- What do you wonder about this work? The artist? Given the chance, what one question would you ask the artist who made this work?
- If you are only viewing this work **virtually**, what do you wonder about the physical qualities of this artwork? Its scale? Its texture? Its materials?
- If you have the opportunity to visit the works **in person**, also look at them online. What are the benefits and challenges of looking at the works in person? Online? Which looking experience did you prefer, and why?
- READ THE ARTWORK'S CAPTION. Does knowing more help you appreciate the work more? Why or why not?

What does this have to do with *me*?

- Does this work remind you of an experience, emotion, or time in your life? Write down what comes to mind.
- How does this make you feel? What do you see that elicits that feeling?
- Which work would you pick to express how you feel right now? Why?
- Which work would you post on social media? Why? What caption would you include? If you'd like, post it to social media and tag **@womeninthearts** and **@slowartday**.
- How might this work relate to you and your life?
- Which work would you like a loved one to see? Why?
- What larger issues that affect you or your loved ones might this work speak to?
- Do you like this work? Why or why not?

Want to get *physical*?

- Strike the pose of a figure depicted.
- Mimic the shapes and lines in the work with your body.
- Dance with the artwork. How does it inspire you to move? What type of music do you hear, if any?

- Consider the artwork's details. Roll up a sheet of paper to create a viewfinder. Look at the artwork through it to isolate and consider the artwork's parts.

More of a *visual* thinker?

- Arrange things you find around your home to make a temporary found-object sculpture that is inspired by your favorite choice. Take a picture of your sculpture. Post it to social media and tag **@womeninthearts** and **@slowartday**.
- Try drawing what you see. What aspects of the work did you choose as your focus? What did you omit?

Enjoy *writing*?

- Create a bank of words and phrases that come to mind as you look at an artwork.
- Did you know April is National Poetry Month? Try writing a free verse or cinquain poem. You can even use your word bank to jumpstart your writing.
 - Possible cinquain format:
 - Line 1: One-word title inspired by an artwork
 - Line 2: Two adjectives describing the artwork
 - Line 3: Three action words (-ing verbs) describing the artwork
 - Line 4: Four words describing the feelings this artwork elicits
 - Line 5: Synonym for the title from line 1

Want to *reflect* on your overall experience?

- Compare your 5 selections. What's similar? What's different? What themes or big ideas connect them?
- Did you appreciate a work for its discrete parts but not in its entirety? Vice versa? Write down examples.
- Of the works you closely considered, which:
 - Would you most like to own? Why?
 - Are you most likely to think about later? What makes it memorable?
 - Do you most relate to? Why?
- What questions do you still have about these works?

5. Join us for a virtual conversation on **Saturday, April 10, 1 p.m. eastern**. Registration is free and required: https://nmwa-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuceqorjlqH9Zh_G7Fcs6lxPL5ioObf6xd

If you can't join us for the conversation on April 10, post about your slow looking experience on social media and tag **@womeninthearts** and **@slowartday**.

I hope you find this fun and enlightening. I look forward to reading and talking about your experiences!

Best,
Addie L. Gayoso (agayoso@nmwa.org)
Senior Educator