

The artists in Impressionist to Modernist were experimenting with subject, composition, technique, and process to achieve a desired effect. Current technology makes experimenting with composition easy and fun.

CREATE A PORTRAIT

What you include or exclude in an image says a lot about the subject. What objects do you surround yourself with on a daily basis? Are they precious or common or both?

Create a self-portrait by photographing the things you surround yourself with. How will you frame the objects?

Take a few snapshots; play with the composition of the photo.

Zoom in to create a close up or abstracted image.

Take photos of the same object using many different angles.

Play with the lighting to create a range of values and moods.

Place a kaleidoscope, magnifying glass, piece of thin fabric, or a glass of liquid in front of the lens to create a low-tech filter.

Will you compose in color or create in black and white? Include a variety of textures in your photo.

Share your photos with others to see what they learn about you. Share your images on your favorite social media platform. Tag the museum @OSUMuseumofArt

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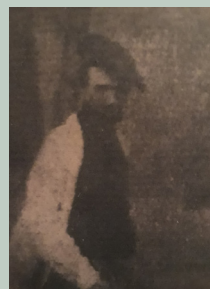
Share your creation!

LET'S LOOK!

DISCOVER GUIDE

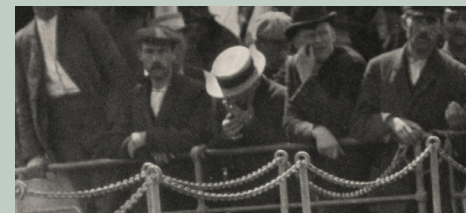
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Find the scenes below in the artwork in the exhibition. Use a magnifying glass to get a better view. Can you find...



1) This man who shows up in two photographs!

2) This tiny fly enjoying some grapes.



3) This circular hat, atop a man ready for an adventure.

4) This funky texture.



5) This tiny horse figure on a shelf.

Answers inside

IMPRESSIONIST TO MODERNIST MILESTONES IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Value is a range of lights and darks in a work of art. Value is important in art for many reasons. It provides contrast and balance, it can create a focal point or sense of importance, and it helps create the illusion of three-dimensional forms on a flat surface.

Notice the range of lights and darks in the black and white photographs. How many different values do you see?


How do the lights and darks in these photos create a MOOD? How might the mood or the content of the photographs change if the values were lighter or darker?

CREATE A VALUE SCALE

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0 = white 1 = light gray 2 = medium gray 3 = dark gray 4 = black

Use your pencil to shade in the boxes above to create a simple value scale. Compare your completed value scale with the values you see in the photographs. How many values can you count?



You can make a viewfinder anywhere, anytime! Just make an L shape with your thumb and finger and create a box. Artists use viewfinders to “crop” an image and focus on specific subjects.



Alfred Stieglitz, *The Steerage*, 1907. Hand-pulled photogravure. 13 1/8 x 10 1/2 inches

In Alfred Stieglitz’s *The Steerage*, the artist has captured passengers preparing to board the Kaiser Wilhelm II from America to Paris in 1907. Many of the passengers pictured here were immigrants rejected at Ellis Island or were returning to their old country to visit relatives.

America is a melting pot of people from all over the world. When we embrace and share our cultures, we enrich the lives of those around us. Where are your ancestors from? What traditions do you celebrate? How might you share your heritage in a self-portrait?

Take a Close Look Answers

1) Gertrude Kasebier, *Sorbonne*, 1901. 2) Heinrich Kuhn, *Still Life with Fruit and Pottery*, ca. 1896. 3) Alfred Stieglitz, *The Steerage*, 1907. 4) Paul Strand, *Speckled Toadstool, Georgetown Maine*, 1927. 5) Paul Strand, *May, San Antonio, Texas*, 1918.

Learn more about the artwork and photo processes by checking out our additional resources available at <http://museum.okstate.edu/impressionist-modernist>