



SHARJAH ART MUSEUM

Pre and Post Visit Materials

Sharjah Art Museum displays a captivating collection of modern and contemporary Arab art. This contemporary collection is composed of paintings and sculptures by some of the most famous artists in the Middle East including Abdulqader Al Rais, Louay Kayali, Bashir Sinwar, Faiq Hassan, Mohammed Yusuf and Ismail Fatah Al-Turk.

In addition to artworks of various mediums and techniques, the museum features a range of expressive techniques that will spur your imagination. Throughout the year, the museum holds a variety of temporary exhibitions and art events. The Art Library consists of over 4000 titles in Arabic, English and other languages, along with visual and audio materials.



Panorama	A wide view of a physical space. This technique was popular in the late 18 th and 19 th centuries.
Interpretation	Determining and explaining the meaning, mood or idea of the artwork.
City life	A drawing or painting of a scene from daily life, such as a shopping area, people doing business and chatting about different topics or images of transportations.
Foreground	The part of a painting that is nearest to and in front of the viewer.
Middle ground	The part between the foreground and background in the painting.
Background	A term in visual arts that describes the part of a composition that appears to be farthest from the viewer to emerge the main elements.
Landscape	A painting that may include mountains, trees and natural scenery or man-made features and usually created on a horizontal plane.
The dome	A kind of domes that are used for roofing. It's a half hollow sphere stands on poles or walls and made from various materials. The dome is one of the Islamic architecture elements.
Perspective	The technique of representing three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface.
Pattern	A two-dimensional decorative effect achieved through the repetition of colours, lines, shapes and textures.
Portrait	Drawing the expressions of human or animal features.
Visual art	Recreate an idea from reality in a new way and shape.
Folklore	A group of ancient arts, stories, tales and legends related to a specific country.

Symbols (in art)	Used to send the meaning or expressions to the viewer. The symbol represents a concept or idea, not necessary has a real shape but should be understood by the viewer based on his\her background and culture.
Conceptual Art	Converting an idea into paintings or installed artworks (tangible). This kind of art appeared in America and Europe in the end of fifties then it spread out in many capitals of the world.
Abstract Art	Abstracting shapes from reality and reformulating them depending on the artistic vision of the artist using colours, gestures and imagination.
Calligraphy	This art includes letters formed in an artistic way and used as a main element while designing the artwork.
Linocut	A printmaking technique used for copying a design or drawing. Artists used this technique to create seals, wood blocks and stones. The linoleum is a mold similar to the stencil helps is repeating the design and depends on a surface with two-tier. Printing technique is divided into three types: Relief Printing, Rotogravure and Lithography.
Utopia (rural landscape):	A philosophical term refers to a place where everything seems perfect with no social evils such as poverty, injustice and disease.
Collage	A technique of an art, primarily used in the visual arts, where the artwork is made from cutting and sticking several papers on a piece of paper or canvas. The collage art has a prominent role in the 20th century and started after the invention of the paper in the second century AD. Its uses were limited until the tenth century when Japanese calligraphers started to write poems on clippings.
Silent Nature	An artistic term means creating a group of solid objects with different sizes and shapes such as tools, flowers and fruits to be the theme of the painting. Solid objects allow the artist to study them well and organize them in their suitable areas in the painting.

These key questions are designed to help families, school groups and individuals to get more out of their visit to the Orientalist Permanent Collection on the second floor of the Sharjah Art Museum. Please ask any of museum staff to help with answering these questions if you need further support.

Landscape Scenes in the Orientalist Permanent Collection

1. What does the word landscape mean to you, and how does this compare to artworks in the galleries?
2. Why would an artist paint a landscape scene?
3. What are the different times of the day that is depicted in some of the landscape paintings?
4. Some artists used a combination of colours to create the sky in the landscape painting. Why might artists use colour gradation and not one solid colour in creating the sky?
5. Landscape paintings are usually divided in three parts which are the foreground, middle ground and background. The nearest part to the viewer is called foreground. What are the things that you can see in the foreground of a landscape painting?
6. The middle ground demonstrates the middle of a landscape view. What are the things you can see in the middle ground? How does the size of the middle ground view differ from the foreground?
7. The part that appears to be in a distance from the viewer in a landscape painting is called the background. Why might artists include the background in their landscape painting? How does the size of the background view differ from the foreground?
8. Why did artists use the different grounds in painting various landscape scenes?
9. Mention things that can be often seen in the background of a landscape painting?

10. Panorama is used to refer to artworks with a very wide view. Why did some artists use a panoramic view in creating a landscape scene?
11. How does the colour vary in a landscape painting and what is the aim of the artist by doing this?
12. What are the different tools that artists used to create a landscape painting?
13. What are the shapes that artists used to paint the silent nature? Are their sizes and dimensions realistic?
14. Can you hear sounds or feel movements in the silent nature painting?
15. What are the themes of the city life paintings? What is the relation between them and what you see in the galleries?
16. What makes the artist paint a city life painting?
17. For whom are these paintings addressed?
18. What message does the painting convey about cultures?
19. Is there more concentration on specific colours? Why?
20. From your point of view, what is the most important part in the painting? Why?
21. Some artists placed people and animals in their landscapes, why? How does the size of human and animals in the painting change our perception of the landscape scale?
22. Why are some images placed in the centre of the artwork while others on the edges? What is the artist's purpose of doing this?
23. What is the light source that is used while painting? Why should artists paint during daytime? What can you notice about the city life back then?

24. Some paintings included Islamic buildings, clothes, people and shops. Why were artists interested in creating these kinds of paintings?
25. How do these buildings differ from the buildings we see nowadays? What sort of materials was used in constructing the Islamic buildings? How do these materials differ from materials used nowadays?
26. What would you hear and smell if you were in one of the city life paintings? How do you think engaging other scenes can help us understand the artist's intent more fully?
27. What symbols did the artists use in their paintings?
28. Artists tended to use symbols that require wide imagination in their paintings. Most of these symbols were linked to various legends which artists were affected by since young age. Can you discover these legends?
29. Artists used various materials to create their paintings such as clippings, leather, and different colours. Do you think that these materials suit the idea of the painting?
30. Each painting contains various symbols that narrate different stories which might be legend, fantasy or real. Artists added various symbols to the painting such as colours, animals' shapes, Islamic patterns and more to help understanding the meaning of the painting. Can you tell us the story behind any painting from its symbols?
31. Masks are one of the prominent symbols which tell us that the artist is from an African country. Can you know the identity of the artist through the symbols used in the painting?
32. Is there any symbol that represents the culture of your country? What is it? What does it refer to?
33. Why artist tended to stay away from representing nature and turn it into simple details?
34. The technique skill of creating a painting is to choose the colour. The painting might express an issue of a specific message so artists used their paintings to express their feelings and send them

to the receivers. Artists use either warm colours or cold colours depending on the painting's topic. Do you feel anything while looking at the colours and lines of the paintings?

35. Can you interpret those symbols and colours connotations in a simple way?
36. From your point of view, give another title for your favourite painting.
37. In the abstract art paintings are usually affect the viewer; do you feel anything while looking at the painting?
38. The elements of art are distributed in several directions so when you focus on these elements they will give you the feeling of movement. Through you tour in the exhibition; look at the painting that your eyes went through all of its elements and compare it with the ones that one element is dominant.
39. Did the artist reach his intent? The artist's intent and the viewer's vision are totally different. The viewer may reach the artist's intent if the painting is enough clear and not mysterious.
40. Most artists were famous for portrait paintings by showing exact facial features and expressions. The artist chooses the suitable time for painting depending on the lighting as it is the most important element while painting the portrait. Can you choose any portrait painting and describe it? Is the lighting strong or light?
41. The artist sees the art of portrait as one of the complex arts because it shows people's personality by their facial expressions. Describe every portrait painting; is the person happy or sad?
42. Look at the displayed sculptures in terms of used materials. Write down the materials used to create these sculptures. Then look at their edges, are they sharp or curved? What do curves mean?
43. Sculpture is a part of the holographic art which focuses on creating three-dimensional models of human, animals and abstract shapes. Look at these sculptures, can you discover their origins?

44. Conceptual artworks depend on installing several materials that are not familiar to the viewer in a creative way. Can you know the meaning of the installed artwork? What is the artist's message?
45. Have a look at the materials used to install the artwork, write them down and compare them later with other artwork's materials. What are the similarities and differences between them?

Interior Design

Many Orientalists were fascinated by Middle Eastern architecture and interior design they encountered on their travels, including designs using geometrical and floral patterns. Many of the Orientalists also included arches in their paintings to add depth and to create a frame within a frame. Artists chose specific times of the day that would give a great colour effect to the overall atmosphere of the painting such as early morning and late afternoon.

Resources:

- Pencil
- Coloured crayons
- Drawing paper
- Clipboard



Method:

- 1) Have your paper clipped on the clipboard.
- 2) Choose a spot in your house that has natural light and a designed interior that include wall or ceiling designs. If there is furniture in the view you can include that too.
- 3) Once you are happy with the spot you chose start drawing with your pencil. If there is an arch in the view make sure to include it.
- 4) Once you are done with your sketch start applying the crayon colours.
- 5) When you are finished with your drawing think about the following questions and write your answers in a piece of paper to accompany your drawing:
 - Why did some Orientalist artists capture aspects of Muslim and Arab buildings in their city life paintings? Think about the elements of the Middle Eastern buildings and how these buildings differ from the building designs of the West?
 - Compare the style of the buildings from the past with buildings today. How they differ in colour, style, design and materials used? Which style do you prefer to live in and why?
 - Describe the social environment that surrounded the Islamic buildings in the past. Also describe the people and the way they dressed, the smell of the streets, the sounds you hear, and describe people's relationships with each other.

Create Your Own Pin-Hole Camera

Photographs capture valuable moments in life. A photograph can tell a story, create powerful emotions or simply show a beautiful scene. But did you know that cameras actually capture images upside down? We don't see these images upside down because there's a hidden mirror inside the camera that flips the image the right way up for us to see it. Can you imagine how the world would look through the camera lens without that mirror? Create a pin-hole camera to see for yourself.



Resources:

- Empty Pringles chip can or similar tube
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Aluminum foil length of 30 cm
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Craft knife (ask a grown-up to help you cut)
- Wax paper
- Drawing pin

Method:

- 1) Take the plastic lid off the Pringles or similar tube and wipe out the inside.
- 2) Draw a line around the tube 6 cm up from the bottom.
- 3) Cut along the line you drew with a help of a grown-up.
- 4) The shorter bottom piece has a metal end. With the drawing pin, make a hole in the center of the metal disc.
- 5) Apply a piece of wax paper to the lid if your lid is clear. Put the plastic lid to the shorter piece. Put the longer piece back on top. Tape all pieces together.
- 6) To keep residual light out of the tube, use a piece of aluminum foil that's about 30cm long. Tape one end of the foil to the tube. Wrap the foil all the way around the tube twice, then tape the loose edge of the foil closed. If you have extra foil at the top, just put it neatly inside the tube.



- 7) Go outside on a sunny day. Close one eye and hold the tube up to your other eye. You want the inside of the tube to be as dark as possible so cup your hands around the opening of the tube closest to your eye if you need to.

- 8) You should be able to see the outside world appear upside down on the grease proof paper screen inside the tube.

Creating a landscape scene

A landscape scene is a view of land which may include mountains, trees, and natural scenery and human-made features. Landscape scenes are divided into three layers. First, the background which is the part that appears to be in the distance, this could be sky, mountains, sun or moon. Then the middle ground which refers to the area in the middle of the painting. And the part of a painting that is nearest to and in front of the viewer is called the foreground. You can easily create a three-dimensional landscape using these three elements!

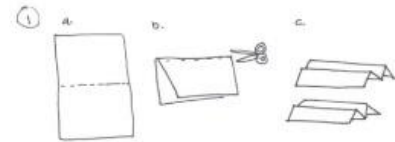
Resources:

- Various A4 coloured craft paper
- 1 A4 black craft paper
- 1 A4 transparency sheet
- Scissors
- Glue

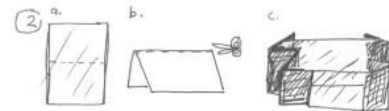


Method:

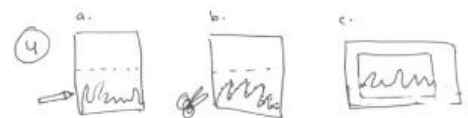
- 1) Fold the A4 black craft paper in half. Cut along the folded line then accordion fold each one of them.



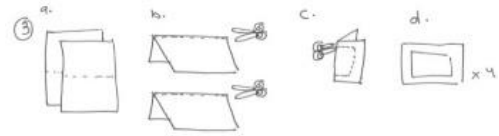
- 2) Fold the transparency sheet in half then cut along the folded line. Glue both of the transparencies on the two accordion folds you created from the back and the front. In the example here we used a transparency for the front and a coloured thick paper in the back.



- 3) Fold 2 sheets of A4 coloured craft paper of the same colour of your choice in half. Cut along the folded line. You will now have 4 sheets. Fold again each of the four sheets in half and start cutting a square shape so you can have a frame with 2.5 cm border all around.



- 4) Now that you have the frames ready you can create your landscape foreground, middle ground, and background. Use the various coloured paper to create a landscape scene. If you want to create a full colour background that represents the sky then you will need to fold a blue craft paper in half, cut along the folded line, and finally glue it's border to the frame you created. You can cut white clouds and glue them on blue paper, or cut flying bird shape in black to represent the sunset. This frame will be your background.



- 5) Use two frames to create the middle ground. Cut the shape of a mountain using brown coloured paper. Remember, the width of the mountains you will cut should be the same as the width of the frame with its borders. Glue the right and the left edge of your mountain to the frame. With the second frame you can do green bushes and red flowers.
- 6) Use one frame to create the foreground. In this example we only used light green bushes.
- 7) Now place all the frames between the accordion folds to create a landscape scene. You could also create another scene of a desert or a forest.

Calligraphy

Arabic letters are an important part of the Arab heritage, spread by the spread of Islam. Its origin has been demonstrated by its ability to develop. This art was not limited to calligraphers, Quranic verses and Islamic patterns but it moved to the visual arts. As every generation carry. Artist combined Arabic letters with the visual art to come out with their own paintings and artistic compositions. You will be able to create your own artwork using Arabic calligraphy and artistic materials.

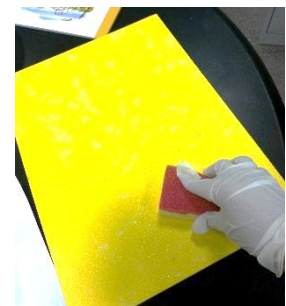
Resources:

- Painting paper size 40*40 cm
- Tape
- Acrylic colours
- Sponge for painting
- Plates and spoons (to merge colours with sand)
- medium size paint brush
- Sand
- Arabic calligraphy (printed out)



Method:

- 1) Use the sponge and start painting using a light colour. Then leave it until it becomes dry.
- 2) Stick the tape on the paper randomly.
- 3) Stick the Arabic calligraphy on the paper.
- 4) Mix 5 spoons of sand with an amount of a dark colour in the plastic bowl.



- 5) Paint the whole space using the mixture (colour and sand).
- 6) After 10 minutes remove the tape and the letters to see the final result.

