

Talk

Now that you have described the physical appearance of painting or sculpture together, take your conversation one step further and chat about big ideas.

Memory: Does this piece bring to mind any memories from your own life? Does it remind you of other works of art, be they visual, musical, dramatic, or literary?

History: What connections can you make between this artwork and the historical context in which it was created?

Choice: What may have inspired the choices this artist made? What do you think the artist was trying to communicate and how?

Mood: What is the mood or feeling of this work of art? Explain your answer.

Personal Preference: Do you like this work of art? Why or why not?

Describing Art Together

When we slow down, describe works of art, and talk about them, we make discoveries together. While this resource was originally developed to guide sighted companions in describing works of art for friends and family with visual impairments, everyone can use the tips and tools provided to facilitate conversation and prompt thoughtful looking. We hope you have enjoyed using this guide in the galleries to describe art together.

OKCMOA provides many services and resources for visitors who are blind or have low vision.

Large Print Label booklets are available at the Admissions desk. Please ask a Visitor Services Associate for assistance.

OKCMOA Learning and Engagement staff can tailor an **Access Tour** specifically for your group. Email access@okcmoa.com with at least three weeks advance notice and we will work with you to **design a tour experience based on your group's accessibility needs**. Access Tours can include verbal description, sensory components, or simply provide a friendly and welcoming educator to accompany your group for one hour in the galleries.

Service Animals are welcome in all public spaces at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Complimentary admission is provided for one **sighted companion** per visitor who is blind or has low vision.

For more information about accessibility and inclusion at OKCMOA visit <http://www.okcmoa.com/accessibility/> or email access@okcmoa.com.

Describing Art Together



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OKC OKLAHOMA CITY
MOA MUSEUM
OF ART

Welcome to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art!

Use these **TIPS** and **TOOLS** to explore the museum.

Describe works of art aloud in the galleries then

TALK about them together.

Getting Started

To begin, select one piece that catches your attention. Which painting or sculpture calls for conversation? Read the label information out loud.

MUSEUM LABEL INFO

Artist Name	→ Karen LaMonte
Artist Nationality and Life Dates	→ American, born 1967
Title and Year of Creation	→ Chado , 2010
Medium	→ Cast Glass
Description	→ Chado was acquired after its presentation in the exhibition, FUSION: A New Century of Glass (June-September 2012). This work of cast glass reflects Czech Republic-based artist Karen LaMonte's seven months spent studying the kimono while on a Creative Artists Exchange Fellowship from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, in 2006. Through her experience, LaMonte inaugurated a new series of works that emphasize the garment's texture and shape, while eliminating the specificity of the female form.
Acquisition No.	→ Museum purchase from the Beaux Arts Society Fund for Acquisitions, 2012.002

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Tips

Most art museum galleries are arranged **thematically** or **chronologically**. What **connections** can you find between the art you are describing and pieces nearby?

When describing works of art, notice details and describe what you see as **objectively as possible**.

For example, instead of saying, "He's angry," or "She's happy," focus on the elements of the work of art that lead you to that interpretation, "He is clenching his fists, his eyes are open wide, and his brow is furrowed," or "She is smiling, her posture is relaxed and carefree."

Move your bodies in response to the art. Copy the poses of figures or use hands and arms to mimic sweeping lines in abstract works of art.

Tools

SIZE AND MATERIAL:

Describe the size of the object and the material, such as oil paint or glass.

How is this work of art displayed in the gallery; on a pedestal, hung at eye level, suspended from the ceiling?

Discuss texture. Is the surface smooth or rough? Are the brushstrokes controlled and tight or expressive and loose?

DESIGN & COMPOSITION:

Provide a "first glance." What do you notice first?

After establishing a general overview, discuss the details contained in the rest of the composition. The numbers of a clock face are helpful in explaining placement.

How has the artist used color, shape, line, space, and/or balance? Does a specific color stand out? Is there a repeated pattern of a shape or line?

NARRATIVE:

Is there a story taking place? Describe key characteristics such as poses and placement of figures and objects.

Who: Who is pictured? What does he or she look like? Describe appearances such as hair, build, clothing, and expression.

What: Explain what is happening. What actions are most important for a clear understanding and appreciation of the subject matter?

When: Is this a scene from today or a moment from the past? How can you tell?

Where: What is the location? How would it feel to step inside this painting? Describe weather and time of day.