

LINE

ART CONNECTIONS > Recommended for all ages

Straight, squiggly, wavy, and zigzag lines are everywhere! Lines are marks on a surface. Almost every work of art has lines, and those lines can be long or short, curvy, straight, thick, or thin. Walk up the zigzag stairs or take the elevator to Level 3 of the Art of the Americas Wing to search for the different ways that artists use line.

Old Brooklyn Bridge

by **Joseph Stella**

(Lobby outside
Level 3 galleries)

This painting located near the elevator is made up of many different lines! Can you count ten lines or more?



Some of the lines in this painting are vertical, which means they go up and down. Some are horizontal, going from one side to the other, and some are diagonal, or at an angle. Some lines cross each other! Joseph Stella made this painting of the Brooklyn Bridge.

- > Does it look like any bridge you have seen?
- > For even more fun, see how many shapes you can find in this painting.

Around the corner in Gallery 332, look up to see Alexander Calder's *Mobil blanc*.



Mobil blanc by Alexander Calder (Gallery 332)

This mobile is made out of painted steel. Notice how the mobile's arms are lines.

- > Can you pretend to be this sculpture? Stretch your arms out to make lines in the air. Ask the person you are with to stretch out their arms to make lines.
- > Connect your arms with their arms to imitate this sculpture.

Now take a journey across the Museum, all the way to Gallery 255 on Level 2. Keep an eye out for straight, squiggly, thick, and thin lines as you go.

Ravine by Vincent van Gogh (Gallery 255)

This painting is a landscape, which means it shows the outdoors. The artist, Vincent van Gogh, painted organic lines to represent the hills, sky, and grass. Organic lines are curvy lines found in nature. In this painting, you can see the lines made by Van Gogh's paintbrush. Imagine the way his hands moved when he painted. Do you think he painted the lines quickly or slowly?



> Van Gogh hiked out to this ravine to paint it and then wrote to his friend, "It is fun to work in rather wild places." Does this painting look wild to you?

> Try drawing a landscape with only curvy lines. Look around this gallery if you need inspiration!

After your visit

LOOK FOR LINES EVERYWHERE!

Boston's buildings are made up of many lines. When you leave the Museum, notice all the different lines in the buildings around you. Are the lines you see horizontal or vertical, thin or thick, straight or wavy? Count how many lines you can find in one building.



FRONT: JOSEPH STELLA, *OLD BROOKLYN BRIDGE*, ABOUT 1941. OIL ON CANVAS. GIFT OF SUSAN MORSE HILLES IN MEMORY OF PAUL HELLMUTH. ON VIEW IN THE LEE AND ALLEN SINAI LOBBY. ALEXANDER CALDER, *MOBIL BLANC*, 1971. PAINTED STEEL. MUSEUM PURCHASE WITH FUNDS DONATED BY MR. AND MRS. GRAHAM GUND, MR. AND MRS. STOKLEY TOWLES, MR. AND MRS. IRVING RABB, MR. AND MRS. PETER S. LYNCH, MR. AND MRS. EDWARD LINDE, MR. AND MRS. THOMAS STEMBERG, MORRIS AND LOUISE ROSENTHAL FUND, SUSAN B. KAPLAN, WILLIAM E. NICKERSON FUND, HELEN AND ALICE COLBURN FUND, BARBARA AND STEVEN GROSSMAN, MR. AND MRS. J. ATWOOD IVES, ERNEST KAHN FUND, HELEN B. SWEENEY FUND, SETH K. SWEETSER FUND, MRS. I. W. COLBURN, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT ADAMS, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CROZIER, LYNN DAYTON, MR. AND MRS. RICHARD FRASER, AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT JAFFE, DAVIS AND CAROL NOBLE, MR. AND MRS. JEROME ROSENFELD, ARTHUR MASON KNAPP FUND, MARY L. SMITH FUND, SUSAN CORNELIA WARREN FUND, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT REMIS, JUDITH PICK EISSNER, MR. AND MRS. JOHN L. GARDNER, MR. AND MRS. RICHARD OLNEY, AND BENJAMIN PIERCE CHENEY DONATION. © 2018 CALDER FOUNDATION, NEW YORK/ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK. ON VIEW IN THE SAUNDRA B. AND WILLIAM H. LANE GALLERIES. BACK: VINCENT VAN GOGH, *RAVINE*, 1889. OIL ON CANVAS. BEQUEST OF KEITH MCLEOD. ON VIEW IN THE SIDNEY AND ESTHER RABB GALLERY. ALL IMAGES © MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. © 2018 MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON.