

Let's Look At Art!



Family Guide • 2021

Fall 2021.

Lukas Geronimas **Nevine Mahmoud** **Vanessa McConnell**

October 14 – December 12, 2021

Our fall exhibitions feature the artworks of Los Angeles based artists Lukas Geronimas, Nevine Mahmoud, and Vanessa McConnell. These artists share an interest and dedication in how materials can be transformed into new objects.

These artists specialize in working with different mediums, such as painting, sculpture, and installation, various tools and materials. The term installation art is used to describe large-scale, mixed-media works, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time.

List as many art tools and materials as you can think of below:

The work by these artists is a result of their passion for their craft and intense involvement in their creative processes.

What does being an artist mean to you?

Write your answer in the space below.

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Nevine Mahmoud

(b. 1988, London, England, lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Mahmoud's sculptures and installations resemble real life objects such as fruit, toys, and body parts. To create these works, the artist carefully reworked the heavy mediums and materials of marble, ceramic, and semi precious stones. She is interested in creating work that brings to mind familiar forms without depicting the exact same characteristics of the real life objects they are based off of.

The artist also repeats many of the same forms in her work. *Find De lating Beach Ball II* and *Beach Ball IV*. Carefully walk around these sculptures and watch how their surfaces and shapes change as you move.

- ① How would you describe each sculpture's color and surface?
- ② Does it appear rough or smooth?
- ③ What other words would you use to describe each sculpture, particularly with how they are different from each other?
- ④ Would you describe these sculptures as light or heavy? Why?
- ⑤ How does it make you feel to look at them?



Nevine Mahmoud

Find *Aileen & Elvis*. Imagine what this work would look like if the artist chose different colors.

What fruit would you choose to make a sculpture of?

What color or colors would it be?

What would you name it?



Draw it below.

Lukas Geronimas

(b. 1980, Toronto, Canada, lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Similar to the other artists in the exhibitions, Geronimas plays with familiar objects through various materials and adds his own expressions and ideas. He is interested in how historic forms, such as columns, windows and figural sculptures, become special to us and how they are treated in spiritual or religious places.

① What is your most valued possession?

② Where did it come from?

③ Why is it important to you?



Sketch it below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for sketching.

For his new works, the artist was inspired by the architecture of the gallery and how it reminded him of a traditional church. This led him to consider the similarities between these two sacred spaces. Something that is sacred is highly valued or important. It may also be considered holy or related to religion. Sacred objects are set apart from the everyday, something that is respected or special.



The works that resemble church windows are made of muslin and wood. What are three words you would use to describe these windows?

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The gallery is a place for us to slow down and appreciate an artwork without the distractions of everyday life. Find a space to sit in the gallery and imagine what you would see if these windows were real.



Draw it below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin green border, intended for drawing.

Vanessa McConnell

(b. 1960, Houston, TX, lives and works in Los Angeles)

McConnell's paintings are characterized by her thick use of paint or impasto. Impasto is a technique of layering or applying paint thickly to a canvas or panel in painting, resulting in a raised surface. Instead of depicting familiar or real life forms, the artist created abstract paintings that are the results of her creative process of continuously painting. The layered surfaces of acrylic paint transform the works into three-dimensional forms, and, in some cases, the paint has broken off to create new objects from these painted works.



This build up of multiple layers of paint allows for multiple colors and shapes to come together in each work.

Choose one of her works and list the colors you can see below:

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McConnell's tools for painting are key in understanding her process. The aprons, brushes, palettes and drop cloths are all thickly covered in paint, just like the works themselves.

Find one of McConnell's works and imagine you are the artist. Make sure you are at least an arm's length away from any artwork.

Pretend to paint the work in front of you.

- 1 How do you hold your brush?
- 2 What parts of the body do you use to make a brushstroke?
- 3 Do you make a lot of brushstrokes or a few? Are they slow or fast?

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Art-Making Activity: Paper Sculptures

The artists in these exhibitions transform various materials through techniques, tools and their own unique creative process to create new objects. Some of the objects are familiar forms, while others are more abstract.

Inspired by the shapes and forms of the art works in the exhibitions, create a paper sculpture with your own unique creative process. Sketch your ideas for the sculptures below and read on for materials needed and suggested techniques for creating your work.



Sketch it below.

MATERIALS

- Pencil
- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue



STEPS

1

Begin by sketching your idea for the paper sculpture below. Is your sculpture based off of a real object or something you have?

Think about what textures and shapes you want to use to create your sculpture.



Look through the paper sculpture techniques suggested below. Which technique(s) do you want to use?

- Glue Roll
- Loop
- Fringe
- Curls
- Cone
- Tabs
- Spiral
- Folded
- Fold & cut
- Extrusions
- Slotted

Try matching the names with the picture below, or make up your own name and new technique!



3

Grab your tools (scissors, glue) and materials (colored paper) to start creating your sculpture.



Consider the size of your cut-outs in relation to your sketch, and, using these cut-outs, explore different ways of building your sculpture.



Once you have your composition, glue the cut-outs to make your sculpture. If you have several pieces, ask a family member to help you in holding the pieces together while you apply the glue.





Finally, title your sculpture and share a picture of your new work with us @lamagabarnsdall!



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#GeronimasatLAMAG #MahmoudatLAMAG

#McConnellatLAMAG

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