

What Happens In a Museum?

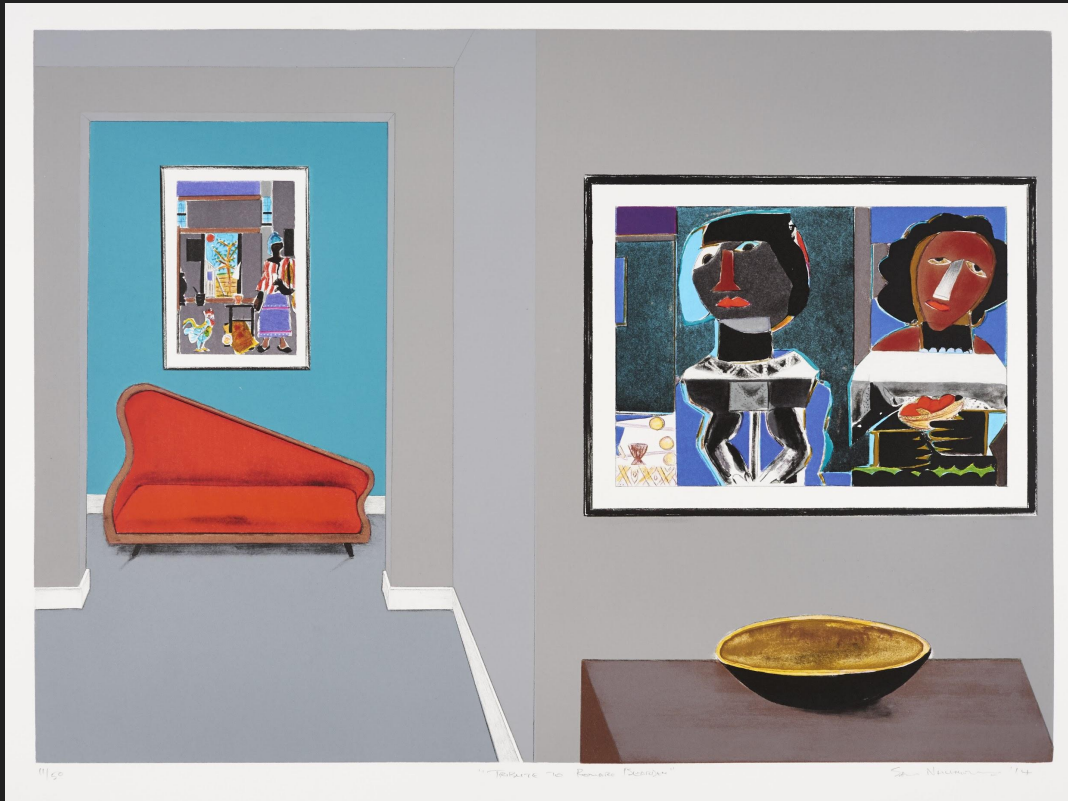
Part 2: A pre-visit introduction for teachers and students



Welcome to UMMA (ooh-ma).



Many people work in an art museum to make it a fun place to learn and explore.



Sam Nhlengethwa
Tribute to Romare Bearden, 2014
color lithograph on paper
Museum purchase made possible by the Director's Acquisition
Committee, 2016/2.8

Where does UMMA get the art? Sometimes the museum buys the art, such as this piece, but most of the time, it is given by donors.

Once the art arrives, it may travel in the extra-large elevator. You may get to ride in it, also, when you travel to the upper floors of the museum.



When art arrives in the museum, installation technicians unpack it and later may prepare it for a loan to another museum.



If the art hasn't been protected or is very old, the conservator researches the work and repairs it.





Sometimes conservators work on very large projects and sometimes on very small ones.



Technicians also help care for the art. For example, they use special brushes to carefully clean the art. Remember that they are the only people who are allowed to touch the art.



Installation technicians prepare the spaces in which art is displayed.





They use lifts and special tools and make sure the lighting is perfect for each work.



Framing protects the art, makes it look beautiful, and helps it complement the work around it.

Exposure to light can damage paper, so sometimes drawings are displayed in drawers. Even if the drawers are closed, you may open them to see what's inside.



You can view art in the glass cases in the basement. These displays change to allow you to see different art throughout the year.



Teachers can ask the museum to display art on these shelves so their students can study it closely.





In addition to installation technicians and conservators, many other people work in museums.

Curators study art, write and talk about it, and choose which art will be shown at certain times.



Many people at the museum work at desks including students, museum educators, exhibition coordinators, collections managers, information technology staff, and other administrators.

Security Officers protect the art and keep visitors safe.



Now you know what happens in a museum to prepare for your visit, to keep the art safe, and to make sure you enjoy your time at UMMA.

We hope you will visit often!

