

A gallery guide for caretakers!

Beginner
Level
(For first
visitors)



Welcome to the Millstone Gallery !



Located at the heart of the COCA's building, one of the goals of the Millstone Gallery is to introduce the pleasure of viewing and interacting with art pieces to students and their families. Whether waiting between classes or planning a weekend activity, these series of guides are meant to provide caretakers with tips and suggestions on how to use COCA's Fall exhibition *Everything Is Golden* to enrich their children's creative curiosity and sense of self.

EVERYTHING
IS GOLDEN

SEPT 16-NOV 6

LIZZY MARTINEZ

Each guide will present instructions to live an entire "Field trip visit" to the Millstone Gallery. This experience will follow:

- a thematic lesson adapted to the age and necessities of the visitors
- activities before, during and after the visit
- recommendations to use the interactive wall

The theme of this guide is:

**VALUE AND
OBJECT'S CARE**



Explain to your children what a gallery is...

A gallery is a place where artists share their creations with their community. By attending an exhibition, visitors establish a conversation with artists about:

How do you describe yourself?

What do you feel in specific moments of your life?

What do you like and dislike about the groups you live within?

Talk about behaviours inside the gallery with children before your visit



Once inside the gallery a prohibitive attitude about what to touch or how to move, can create bad memories and associations, if these expectations were not discussed beforehand.

Instead of presenting the rules in negative terms: “do not run” or “do not touch” try with explanations: “because we care for these art pieces, is better if we avoid touching them”; “because some of the pieces are fragile, it is safer if we don’t run”



Build expectations

Ask your children what are the most valuable objects they own. This might be a blanket, a toy or a piece of clothes. Ask them to explain why they like this object so much (Remember here to validate their answers. If they like it because of a color, for instance, compliment that color or the fact that is an important element of the piece).



Then, explain them the difference between price and value, and the importance of emotional value, this is, how objects that might be considered “cheap” or “worthless” can be really important for them based on the memories or the relationships we establish.

Introduce your children to recycling.
Explain the differences between recyclable and non-recyclable materials and choose 5 elements to dispose, allowing your children to locate each of them in the correspondent trash can. While doing this talk highlight some of these aspects:



How do we decide to put an object in a trash?
Is an object useless just because it is old?
How could we reuse some of the elements we usually dispose in the house?




Relationship with the exhibition:

Artist Lizzy Martinez chose discarded materials through the city and gave them a second life through her pieces. A bathroom store gave her the tiles we see in the concrete pieces; from a wood shop she took the frame pieces that are part of the main goat and Arachne. Let your children know this fact and invite them to think how art can be made for any element, including ones that we don't associate with "beauty" or "value"

Inside the gallery



- Listen more than what you talk: It is tempting to lecture your kids with all the information you know about a piece. Instead build confidence by relying on your children knowledge: “what do you see in front of you?”, “what do you notice?”, “can you tell me more?”, “does this remind you of something?”



Is that a
ballerina?

All within the space guidelines, allow your kid to point out and move while talking about a work of art. Guesses should always be allowed. Let your child create their own narratives based on their guesses of subject (who this person can be?) or locations (where are the events portrayed in the piece?) If your kid sees Arachne and name it as a “ballerina” instead of correcting them, follow up with a “what makes you think that?” and incorporates that guess into what you know, “probably Arachne liked to dance a lot because she was an artist too, and she enjoyed everything creative”

Usually it is not recommended for kids to wander around big spaces as children need to focus their energy and excitement on a specific goal. However, you can make them “your guides” as they can move freely in the small space of the gallery and choose, especially at the beginning, the pieces they are interested about.

A great activity to keep them engaged is to use the pieces to develop a “scavenger hunt” For that, you can pick up the gallery brochure and ask your kids to look one by one the pieces that appear in the cover.





One of the greatest features of *Everything Is Golden* is the interactive wall located at the left of the gallery. For this level, explain to your children that sometimes touch can be allowed inside galleries in exercises like this. Allow them to gently interact with the different materials and ask them about their sensations. putting the stickers in the boxes.

Then ask them to associate the sticker dots with the materials, all based in their feelings. It is okay to deviate for the planned activity, and just allow your kids to play-yes, play!- with the stickers

Make the experience last!

A false impression that you should prevent forming in your children's mind is that art can only be enjoyed or appreciated inside galleries and museums. You can keep encouraging creativity by showing to your family that the world is an art-school in itself. Here are some ideas specifically related to Lizzy Martinez's exhibition:

- Allow your kids to be creators. Buy clay or paint on wood activities and let your kids explore with these materials. You can also bring with you some sketches to the gallery and ask them to draw some of the sculptures. Encourage them to move around the pieces so they can catch every angle!
- Continue with sensorial explorations. A simple "waiting moment" can become an artistic exercise if you engage with different materials from all your senses. Ask your children to touch certain surfaces and describe the feeling in their hands, the temperature. Don't be scared to experiment with the questions itself. Change materials!: Do you think we could drive a car made of wood? What would happen if your dress were made of flowers?

Share your experiences!

Tag us in our social networks and share your experiences introducing kids to the gallery

If you have any question about this guide, you can contact
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Notes

