Why do we make images? What do we want to say with them?

How an image is composed is often just as important as what is in the image. The composition of an image changes what we see, how we see it, and even what we don’t see. The angles, distance, and cropping of an image all influence the story that the final image tells.

This artwork is made up of 275,000 images! These images are of everyday things, like a pet, a haircut, a shadow, a coffee. Through this work, the artist is trying to show us how easy it is to take photographs in today’s world, and how many images we take and see all around us every day.

What is composition?
Composition is how things are placed and framed in an image.

Mémoires
Roberto Pellegrinuzzi (b. 1958)
2015
Digital photographs printed on backlite film and mounted on nylon threads
4.26 x 6.09 x 8.53 m
Courtesy Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain, Montreal
© Photos credit « François Lafrance »
ACTIVITY: MAKE A PHOTO INSTALLATION!

Inspired by the amazing photo installation in the exhibition, create your own artwork on small squares of paper, using images of things that have special meaning to you and tell a story about your life.

Paint, draw or take photos of at least 10 things – it could be some of your favourite books, your pets, your home, your favourite food, etc. Then think about how you want to arrange them all together in one artistic composition. Perhaps you want to hang them all on strings in your room, just like Roberto Pellegrinuzzi did for his cool work!
Look at the portraits around you. They have all been carefully designed to display power and authority in impressive ways. How do they make you feel?

This is a painting, or portrait, of Sultan Selim III. It shows him wearing royal clothes and a turban. He is holding a diamond watch. Below the sultan is a scene with his ships and boats setting sail. This painting was made to share with other kings and queens in Europe. When they saw it, they would understand that Selim was a rich and powerful king who ruled over a large country.
**ACTIVITY: HOW DO YOU SEE POWER?**

*Look closely* at the painting. What do you notice?

What clothing, symbols, or surroundings can you see? What makes Selim look powerful?

What do you think other kings and queens would have thought of the person in this portrait?

Now, draw a picture to show *YOUR* power.

Think about these questions before developing your portrait.

What makes *YOU* powerful and confident?

Which of your unique powers do you want people to see in your picture?

Which things help you show your power?
Many of the artworks we see around us in this exhibition show people and faces. In this section, many artworks use words and symbols to make us think about God and sacred ideas.

This beautiful artwork is a ‘word portrait’ of the Prophet Mohammed. Muslims believe the Prophet Mohammed is God’s messenger. The words in the centre describe what he looked like, so that people who read the words can imagine and think about him and all his perfect features and characteristics in their own personal ways.

Hilye
Signed by Hafiz Osman Efendi
Turkey, Istanbul, dated 1099 AH/1687-88 CE with later additions
Opaque watercolour and ink on paper mounted on leather
© Image courtesy of University of Michigan Library Isl. Ms. 238
When you think of God or a holy person, how would you describe them in words?

Create your own beautiful design and add your words as you think about this question and talk about it with your grown-up.
Across time and space, images and paintings have been used to tell popular stories about bravery, loyalty, and love.

This painting is part of a manuscript, or book, called *The Rose Garden of Love*. It shows Prince Manohar on a journey to find Princess Madhumalati. On this journey, the prince is attacked by a snake-like creature. But he survives the attack and finds Madhumalati. We know that Prince Manohar is the brave hero of this painting because he is shown as the largest person in the scene, wearing white.
This 350-year-old painting tells an exciting story about a giant sea snake attacking the ships of a prince.

When you look closely, you can see that there is a lot going on at the same time! What do you see in the middle of the scene? What do you see at the top and bottom? Search the painting and see if you can find some of these interesting figures and creatures:

- **Prince Manohar**: the hero
- **Mermaid**: creature
- **Crab**: (can you find 2?)
- **Turtle**: (can you find 2?)

Make up your own story of the hero Prince Manohar and his bravery! Or why not tell a story inspired by what you see? When have you been brave like Prince Manohar?
Today, we can capture an image of ourselves in an instant, and share it with family and friends at the touch of a button!

The images we take and share tell a story of who we are, what we value, how we see ourselves in the world, and how we want others to see us.

This photograph was taken in Egypt in the 1870s, not long after photography was invented. It was designed as a visiting card that you could give to friends when you visited their home. People would collect these cards to create a gallery of their friends! The clothes, jewellery, hairstyles, and props used in these portraits would tell the viewer a lot about the identity and importance of the person in the picture.

Portrait of a Woman
Schier & Schoefft
Egypt, Alexandria, 1870s
Carte-de-visite
© Image courtesy of Getty Research Institute, Ken and Jenny Jacobson
Orientalist Photography Collection, 2008.R.3, No.2639
There are many different things that make us each who we are! What are the most important pieces of your identity that make you... you!?

Think about some of the sentences below and fill them in:

I am.... I love.....
My favourite activity is... The most important people in my life are...
I am proud to be... I believe in....

Use your answers to create your very own identity diagram. Feel free to add more identity bubbles too!

Why not ask your family to create their own identity bubbles and share together!
Look at this entire artwork.

**What do you see?**

Now look at the detail of the work.

**What do you see now?**

Look from far away and you see three images of a French photographer called Adrien Tournachon. He took these photos of himself in the year 1858. Look closer and you see that this work is made up of thousands of selfies. These are photos that people took of themselves in 2020 and 2021. Through this work, the artist shows us that selfies have always been important to photography.
ACTIVITY: SELFIE REFLECTION

Do you like to take selfies? Why?

Taking a selfie makes me feel

What do you want to express with them?

I want my selfies to show

Who do you share your selfies with?

I like to share my selfies with