



Tree Forms

Artist: Arthur Garfield Dove

Date: 1932

Medium: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 28 1/16 x 20 1/16 in.

- What do you see? Think of one word to describe this painting.
- What types of **lines** do you see?
- The artist Arthur Dove was inspired by the landscape around him. He was friends with the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. They both were interested in **abstraction**, or using shapes, colors and forms to express ideas instead of recognizable images.
- The title of the painting is *Tree Forms*. What do you see that looks like a tree? What looks different?
- Look closely at a tree in your environment. Zoom in on one part, such a leaf, branch or bark. What colors and lines do you see?
- Create your own abstract drawing of the tree part. Be creative!



The Squeeze

Artist: Ken Price

Date: 1995

Medium: ceramic and acrylic

Culture: American

Dimensions: 19 1/2 x 27 1/2 x 14 1/2 in.

- What **colors** do you see?
- Notice the **shape** of the sculpture. It is both **organic** (shapes that represent living things) and **abstract**.
- If you could touch this sculpture, what would it feel like?
- The artist Ken Price molds each sculpture from clay and fired it in a kiln. Once hardened, he paints layers of different colors and then sands the surface. This process creates the shimmery, colors.
- What does the sculpture remind you of? As a surfer, Price was inspired by the ocean and rocks of different shapes.
- Find something around you that has an unusual shape.



Scarab of Sheshonq I

Date: c. 945 - 924 BCE

Medium: green faience

Culture: Egyptian

- What does this object look like? Notice the carved **lines** for the wings and legs. This amulet is of a scarab, or dung beetle, a symbol for renewal and rebirth in ancient Egypt.
- Egyptian amulets were personal objects like a charm, which were thought to provide magical protection or certain powers.
- Here is an image of the back of the amulet. These are cartouches of the pharaoh Sheshonq I. A **cartouche** is an oval shape with **hieroglyphs**, or characters of the ancient Egyptian writing system.
- The amulet is about the size of a dime. It would have been strung onto necklace or ring and worn by the living, or buried with the dead.
- What would you choose for your own amulet? What magical powers would it have? Draw a picture of your amulet design.





Red Durango

Artist: Sean Scully

Date: 1991

Medium: oil painting

Culture: American, Irish

Dimensions: 100 x 130 x 3 1/2 in.

- How many **lines** do you see in this painting?
- What **colors** do you see? What do they remind you of?
- The artist Sean Scully was inspired by landscape and architecture. This painting is named after Durango, a state in Mexico with forests, mountains, and desert.
- What do you see in this painting that makes you think of these environments?
- What colors and shapes come to mind when you think about your favorite place? Try drawing a picture of your place using only colors, shapes, and lines.



Etruscan Bronze Dancer

Date: c. 500–480 BCE

Medium: bronze

Dimensions: 2 1/16 x 1 5/16 x 7/16 in.

- This sculpture is made from bronze, a strong metal. What do you notice about the material?
- This object is over 2,000 years old. Bronze sculptures often change colors over time as they age. What **colors** do you see?
- What do you notice about the figure? Try copying her pose.
- Look closely at her **details** – her hair, clothing, and facial features. What types of lines or marks do you see?
- This sculpture is only 2 1/16 inches tall. It's not even the smallest object in the museum!
- Find a small object in your house or yard. Use your viewfinding tool to help you look closely at the details. What do you see that's interesting? Draw a picture of your close-up view.