

# ART CHATS



## JOSLYN BUILDING

American Art:  
Durham Gallery, J7

**Image:** Teri Greeves (Ka'igwu (Kiowa), b. 1970), *High-Top Tennis Shoes*, 1995, commercial canvas shoes and glass seed beads, each: 6 1/2 x 4 x 12 3/8 in. (16.5 x 10.2 x 31.4 cm), Museum purchase, 1996.24.a-b, © Teri Greeves

## Study the artwork and the prompts.

### LOOK

What do you notice first about this colorful pair of high-top tennis shoes? What makes them appear so special?

Do you see the large bright yellow horse and small deep red one? Look closer—are those feathers in the horses' manes?!

## Start an artful discussion.

### DISCUSS

Using your best art language, describe the geometric shapes, vivid colors, and galloping animals.

What do you think these shoes say about the artist, her skills, her interests, her life and loves?

If you designed your own beaded shoes, what would they show us about you? Would your design include animals?

Tell us more!

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kiowa artist Teri Greeves was born and raised on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming with the Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Native American tribes. At age eight, she began beadworking while minding her mother's trading post. The artist shares her experience as a modern Kiowa woman through her work, which fuses Kiowa beadwork and Shoshone pictorial style. She prioritizes storytelling over using traditional objects and has beaded on everything from tips to high heel boots and tennis shoes.

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American Art:  
Lauritzen Gallery, J9

**Image:** Mary Cassatt (American, 1844–1926), *Woman Reading*, 1878–79, oil on canvas, 32 × 23 1/2 in. (81.3 × 59.7 cm), Museum purchase, 1943.38, Photograph courtesy Bill Ganzel, Ganzel Group Communications, Inc.

## Study the artwork and the prompts.

### LOOK

Notice how the artist draws us into this quiet, personal moment by providing a glimpse over the shoulder of a woman reading.

## Start an artful discussion.

### DISCUSS

Where and what might the woman be reading?

Where do you like to read and what are your favorite kinds of things to read?

Share a captivating story about a book you could not put down.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mary Cassatt was one of the leading artists associated with the Impressionist movement. An American painter and printmaker, she spent much of her adult life in France and gained artistic recognition by showing her paintings at the Paris Salon. In 1877, she was invited by Edgar Degas to join a group of artists called the Impressionists. Her subject matter depicted the rich interior lives of women in the domestic setting, with an emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children.

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## JOSLYN BUILDING

American Art:  
Iowa West Foundation  
Gallery, J11

**Image:** Manierre Dawson (American, 1887–1969), *Equation*, 1914, oil on cardboard, 36 × 27 5/8 in. (91.4 × 70.2 cm), Museum purchase with funds provided by the Joslyn Women's Association: Collectors' Choice III and the JWA 1987–88 Administration, and gift of Ephraim Marks, 1988.14

## Study the artwork and the prompts.

### LOOK

Could it be the more you look, the more you see? By eliminating or reducing realistic details, abstract artists like Mr. Dawson invite us to use our imaginations to search for meaning.

Look closely in between the geometric shapes and warm and cool colors. What do you see?

Lines that might look like math symbols? Shapes in the center that might look like a man and a woman with their heads held close?

## Start an artful discussion.

### DISCUSS

Think about the title of this painting and what it might mean about the relationship between a man and a woman. Can you point out and talk about these things with your neighbor?

Try creating your own abstract work of art with hidden symbols using pieces of colored paper squares.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chicago-born Manierre Dawson (1887–1969) is considered one of the pioneers of American abstraction. A civil engineer and self-taught artist, he traveled through Europe studying painting and art in 1910. There, he sold his first work to American writer and art patron Gertrude Stein (1875–1946). His abstract paintings and sculptures used simplified mathematical and geometric shapes and were non-objective, lacking a central subject matter, while often suggesting fragmented landscapes and figures.