

Clothing and Patterns

Grades 1-3 Activity Guide

Inspired by artworks from the RMG's Permanent Collection



Gathie Falk, *Agnes*, 2000-2002, varnish and acrylic on papier-mâché. Purchased with the assistance of a Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Grant, 2002



Tom Hodgson, *Portrait of a Shirt*, 1957, oil on canvas. Purchase 1971.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Gathie Falk

Gathie Falk was born in Saskatchewan, her parents came to Canada from Russia shortly before Gathie was born. Growing up she loved music, singing and drawing. She had lots of factory jobs before she eventually became an elementary teacher. As a teacher, she studied painting, drawing and design. Gathie Falk became known for creating sculptures about everyday objects such as fruit and shoes.

Tom Hodgson

Tom Hodgson was born in 1924 and grew up in Toronto. He was an active child, he loved sports and art. Hodgson was a Canadian Olympic canoeist as well as a famous Canadian artist! He started painting nature before moving on to painting abstractions and he became known for his abstract artworks. Tom Hodgson was one of the members of the abstract painting group, Painters Eleven.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS

Although Gathie Falk's sculptures are often made out of clay, this dress (as part of a series of dresses called *Traces*) is made out of papier mache. She would paint and glaze the surface in such a way that it made her sculptures look extra elegant. She said that the dresses she created had a story. She imagined that each dress was found in a closet in different parts of the country, left behind by its owner. Gathie Falk called this dress, *Agnes*.

This painting, *Portrait of a Shirt* by Tom Hodgson was painted after Hodgson went to a party. Apparently, Hodgson found himself in a bathroom that had bright pink walls. When he looked at his reflection in the mirror he thought the colours of that bright background did not match his yellow, red and black striped shirt. After returning home, Hodgson thought some more about the image he saw in the mirror and decided to try to paint it. He made some changes to make the artwork look more interesting. What do you think, do you like his "new" shirt?

DISCUSSION PPROMPTS/ACTIVITY

Ask students to consider the images without telling them the titles or what they could be. What do they notice?

- What is similar?
- What is different?

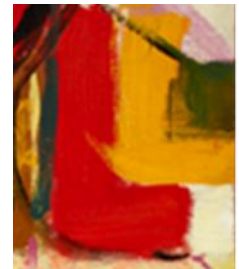
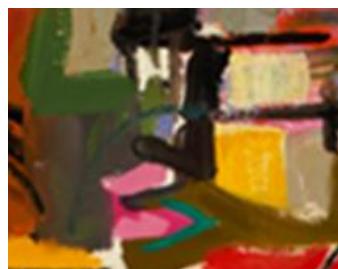
One of the artworks is a sculpture. What is a sculpture?

Sculpture is an artwork that is 3D (height, width and depth). *Agnes* is a free standing sculpture where all sides are shown. We call this type of sculpture, in the round.

- What materials do you think the artists used to make their artworks?
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- What is abstraction?
- How many different lines, shapes and colours can you see in *Portrait of a Shirt*?
- Can they see any repeat patterns (random, alternating or regular)?

Ask students to consider lines, shapes, patterns and textures they see in *Portrait of a Shirt*. Can they find these smaller images in the painting?



- Are the objects in the artworks symmetrical?

DRAWING CHALLENGE

Let's be Fashion Designers!

- Design a hat that would match either artworks, what would it look like?
- Can you pick a section of *Portrait of a Shirt* and make a patterned shirt/dress/pants with it?

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Paper
2. Pencils
3. Markers/pencil crayons or other colouring materials

EXTENDED LEARNING IDEAS

Encourage students to look for examples of patterns within the classroom/home both inside and outside. Ask them to recreate their patterns onto blank recipe cards. Students can arrange their cards to form an interesting design then collage their cards onto a blank shirt template. Encourage students to cut out their cards into different shapes before collaging their final masterpiece!



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