

The ABC's of Curating



APRIL 2026

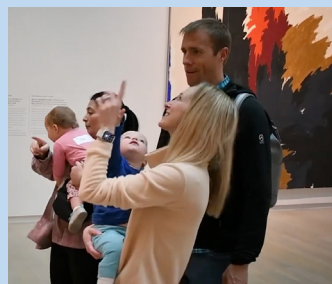


This theme was developed in collaboration with our Curator of Collections and focuses on curatorial practices at our Museum. These provocations invite infants to explore their aesthetic preferences and practice close looking at the artworks in the galleries.

Infant aesthetic preference:

“When infants respond aesthetically to an image/object, is it at a visceral level - a pure sensory response” (Danko-McGhee, 2010). Observing body language will tell us their preferences. They might gaze, reach for, smile at, or vocalize towards an artwork. These are all ways of expressing their preferences!

Close looking: Curation is a practice of intentionality and noticing what draws your attention. A close-looking experience allows infants and caregivers to observe the colors, shapes, and textures in the galleries. We encourage caregivers to notice what their child looks at during this time. Are they staring at one color specifically? Are they reaching toward a shape? We encourage them to narrate what they see their infant doing by pointing out colors, textures, shapes, and lines.



Notice what your baby is noticing! The walls, echoes, ceiling, other visitors, and artworks alike are all there to explore. We see learning in all of it!

STILL Clyfford Still Museum



We encourage caregivers to narrate what their infant might be interested in and make connections to their own lives. If a child is interested in a blue shape in a painting, you might connect it to the sky that you pointed out on your walk into the museum!



“Infants actively engage with their environment—crawling across spaces, reaching for textures, mouthing objects, and repeatedly returning to materials of interest. These movements and sensory explorations reflect not only cognitive curiosity but also growing physical confidence and autonomy.”

– **Dr. Kyong-Ah Kwon**, CSM Early Childhood Education Fellow 2025 (in response to observing Art Crawl at CSM)