**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 tipis to high heel boots and tennis shoes.

**ANIMAL HIDE & SEEK**

**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!?  

**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!
Art Chats

Nishiyama Hōen (Japanese; Shijo School, Edo Period (1615–1868), 1804–1867), Two Peacocks and Flowers, 19th century, ink and colors on silk on two-fold screen, 66 x 74 1/2 in.; 167.64 x 189.23 cm, Museum purchase, 1998.50

About the Artist: Nishiyama Hōen was the most prominent Shijo painter in Osaka, and one of the best painters of his time. Some say he was the last great Shijo artist. He is noted for his masterly drawing and gentle, refined style. A master at melding tones of color, he specialized in birds and flowers, as well as figures. Painters of the Shijo school, founded in Kyoto in the eighteenth century, are noted for the naturalism of their work using traditional Japanese techniques rather than western devices of perspective and modeling to achieve greater accuracy of depiction and a sense of the everyday.

Joslyn Art Museum

Art Chats

SPRINGTIME

Look:

Pretty as a ___________________! Look closely at this proud bird showing off his magnificent plumes.

What shapes, colors, and patterns are repeated?

Can you guess how many shimmering feathers are on display?

Discuss:

Describe what’s happening in this garden full of sweet smelling peonies, magnolias, and cherry blossoms.

Can you guess what time of year it is? What makes you think so?

Talk about the last time you encountered a beautiful bird.

Did it look like these birds?

Check out the artwork and the prompts, and start an artful discussion with the people you love. Great for all ages!
Art Chats

Thomas Moran (American, born England, 1837–1926), *The Grand Canyon of the Colorado*, 1913, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 in. (63.5 x 76.2 cm), Gift of Mrs. C.N.Dietz, 1934.10

Joslyn Art Museum

Art Chats

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STORYTIME

Look:

You are standing at the precipice of the Grand Canyon!

Allow your eye to travel over the rocky foreground, through the trees and beyond. Notice the vivid colors, the craggy boulders, the finely brushed fir trees. Now imagine the trees are theater curtains, opening up to reveal the dramatic spectacle of space, light, and color!

Instead of using a camera, the artist, Thomas Moran, used his pencils and paintbrushes to capture the breathtaking places he visited. He filled his diary with sketches of wild spaces and natural wonders few people had ever seen.

Discuss:

Where have you traveled, and what stories did you capture with your camera along the way?

About the Artist: Thomas Moran is best known for his expansive paintings of the American West. Born in England, he immigrated to America as a child and apprenticed to an engraver in Philadelphia. In 1871 he accompanied a government surveying expedition to Yellowstone and was greatly inspired by the landscape. Capturing the public’s imagination, his work helped inspire the creation of Yellowstone National Park and he was the first painter to depict the magnificence of the Grand Canyon.
Mickalene Thomas (American, b. 1971), *Din, une très belle nègresse*, 2012, acrylic, oil, enamel, and mixed media on wood panel, 102 x 84 in. (259.1 x 213.4 cm), Museum purchase, gift of The Sherwood Foundation, 2019.6 © 2020 Mickalene Thomas / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Joslyn Art Museum

Art Chats

About the Artist: Brooklyn-based artist Mickalene Thomas entered the residency program at the Studio Museum in Harlem in 2002, where she developed her now iconic depictions of strong, confident African American women decorated with collages and rhinestones. Her portraits feature glamorous subjects who embrace their gender and skin color, projecting a vision of black femininity and power. She describes Din, as a shy medical student who transforms “like a chameleon” when she models, becoming self-assured and bold.

**People Who Pose**

**Look:**
Up close, personal, and powerful—that’s the artist’s plan! Spend time enjoying all the shimmering details of this portrait.

How do the vibrant colors and lively patterns express the attitude and personality of the sitter?

What is she thinking?

**Discuss:**
Imagine a story between the sitter and the artist. Do they know and respect each other?

What do you wonder about this portrait?

If you were asked to make a portrait of your friend, what would it look like? What colors, patterns, and objects would you include to capture their personality?

Check out the artwork and the prompts, and start an artful discussion with the people you love. Great for all ages!
About the Artist: Born in Indiana, William Merritt Chase (1849–1916) began studying painting at age 18. In 1872, following three years of study at the National Academy of Design in New York, Chase entered the Munich Royal Academy. From there he traveled Europe and established his reputation by successfully exhibiting in London and Munich as well as in New York. His paintings were admired for their luminous color, virtuoso brushstroke, and assured composition, and his work was exhibited widely, often winning awards.