

# SUMMER ART EXPLORERS

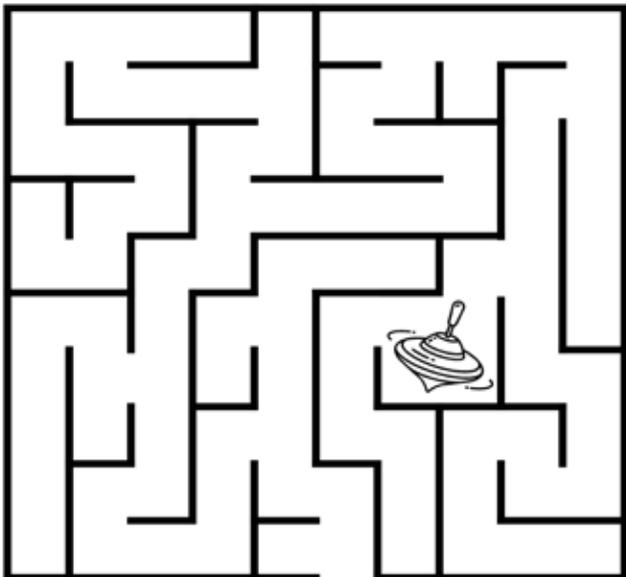
## ACTIVITIES WITH TOYS

### Drawing Challenge

Draw your favorite toy.

### Maze

Find the toy in the maze.



## Week 4 PLAYING WITH TOYS

Each week in June and July, explore the inspiring and extraordinary works of art, exhibitions, and installations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston! Whether at home or in the galleries, use this guide to take a trip through the Museum and discover different works of art. If you are using this art guide at home, find works of art in the MFAH Collection at [mfah.org/art](http://mfah.org/art).

## TOYS IN THE COLLECTION

### Let's start the conversation!

*Use these steps to talk about art with your family.*

1. Find an artwork in the collection that depicts a toy or find an artwork that makes you feel playful.
2. Spend a few minutes looking at all the details of the artwork. What kind of toy is depicted? If there is no toy, how does the art make you feel playful?
3. Share what you notice about this artwork with your family. Does the artwork remind you of a toy that you have at home? Why?

### Did You Know?

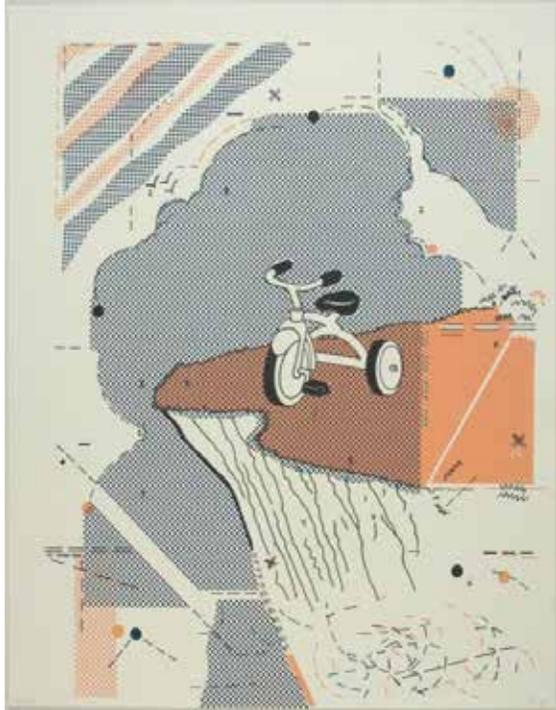
- In Ancient Greece, children played with dolls, hobbyhorses, and yo-yos.
- Play-Doh was created in the 1930s as a wallpaper cleaner.
- The original Mr. Potato Head was an actual potato!

# MAKE ART AT HOME

## Exploring Toys and Creating Your Own Print

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy



### Investigate the Work of Art!

1. What is the focal point in this work of art, *Untitled* by Steve Gianakos, and what did the artist do to make it stand out?
2. What patterns and imagery can you identify in the background?
3. What kind of story do you think the artist is trying to tell in this work of art?

### Let's Make Some Art

#### *Gather These Materials*

- Thick paper for the base
- Extra paper for creating a stencil
- Acrylic or tempura paint
- Large paintbrushes
- Water cup
- Paper towels
- Paint tray or paper plate
- Materials for creating visual texture (felt, bubble wrap, straws)
- Scissors
- Optional: X-acto knife and cutting board

### Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Begin by thinking of your favorite toy. This will become the main image in your artwork.
2. Think about the background. What colors, patterns, and imagery could help describe your toy?
3. Create the background by using paint and the materials you collected for creating texture. After cutting the materials to the shape you want, apply paint to the surface and press the materials onto your paper.
4. Keep in mind that allowing drying time between layers will prevent colors from blending.
5. To create your toy stencil, cut the shape out of a sheet of paper or be more precise by using an X-acto knife.
6. When applying paint to your stencil, remember that placement and color are important in order for the toy to stand out from the background.

*Share your finished artwork on social media with #MFAHathome.*

Above: Steve Gianakos, printed by Solo Press, Inc., *Untitled*, from the portfolio *Missing Children*, 1985, lithograph in orange, blue, and black, edition 33/41, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of Jane and Raphael Bernstein, 98.676.1.

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General admission to the MFAH is free on Thursdays, courtesy of Shell Oil Company.

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