

Activity Card

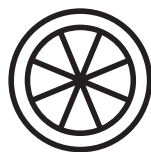
Where do you find



at CAM?

An artwork achieves **balance** when its colors, textures, lines, and/or shapes are arranged so that they feel balanced. Let's explore the principle of balance in artworks you can find at the museum!

Balance is a principle of art. It can be created in many ways, and today we will look at three types of balance:



RADIAL

Elements are arranged around a central point, like a clock or a bicycle wheel.



SYMMETRICAL

Elements are equally arranged on both halves of an artwork, like if a scale had the same weight on each side.



ASYMMETRICAL

Elements might have different weights but still feel correct, like a see saw or a wave.

To see how an artist creates **radial balance**, let's start in the lobby in the exhibition *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* Can you find the artwork *Bombas Paracaidas* by Jorge Rivera? If you need a hint, the title translates from Spanish as “parachute bombs.” If you need another hint, look up!

EXPLORE

How do you see balance in this artwork?

What materials is this parachute made of?

Why would someone make a parachute?

To see how an artist creates **symmetrical balance**, let's visit Mona Chalabi's exhibition *Squeeze*. For this artwork, the artist studied animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct—meaning there are so few left that they might disappear forever. To help us understand this information, she drew six subway cars and filled each with the known remaining number of a species.

By drawing six subway cars, an even number, the artist creates symmetrical balance and a sense of repetition that animal extinction is a serious, ongoing problem.

Is there something you or your community could do to help take care of the environment and the animals and plants that live in it?

Write it here: _____

Finally, let's explore **asymmetrical balance**. Can you find Jon Young's sculpture *Winds from the East*? This colorful cactus is curved by an invisible force. By leaving an empty space, the artist not only created asymmetrical balance with the large shape of the cactus, but also gave us a chance to use our imagination of what happened!

Draw the sculpture and what you think might be giving the cactus its shape here:

Join us for this season's Family Programs!

PLAY DATES

Second Saturday of each month, 10:00–11:00 am
Free

Families with children of all ages and abilities are invited to enjoy a monthly theme that explores exhibition ideas, hands-on art making, and performances that get everybody moving with guest artists.

October 8 / Basic Balance
November 12 / Color Intensity
December 10 / Insistent Emphasis
January 14 / Linear Lines
February 11 / Magical Movement

Programs are free and will take place onsite unless otherwise indicated. Prior registration is strongly encouraged due to limited capacity.



For more information
and to register



Play Dates are sponsored by Ameren Missouri.

We didn't ask permission, we just did it... is generously supported in part by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Whitaker Foundation, Berezhdivin Collection, Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi, Nada and Michael Gray, and Eric and Tamara Schimmel. Special thanks to Barrett Barrera Projects. Street Views is generously supported by the Whitaker Foundation.

The Great Rivers Biennial is made possible by the Gateway Foundation.

Mona Chalabi: Squeeze is generously supported by the Whitaker Foundation, and Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg.



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