

Where can you find bubbles? Join the Frye in search of bubbles in artworks from the Museum's collection before making some bubble prints. We will create our own colorful bubbles with the materials we have at home and capture them on paper.



GET INSPIRED

Take a moment to look closely at this painting.

- In art, a **figure** is an image of a person. What do you notice about this figure? How might you describe this figure? What do you think the figure in the front is holding in her hand? Looking at her body language and facial expression, what do you think she might be thinking?
- Let's look at the smaller figure in the back. Who might this figure be? What do you see that makes you say that? Looking at this figure's body language and facial expression, what do you think this figure might be thinking?
- Based on your observations, what do you think the story might be between these two figures? What might the bubbles represent?

Gabriel von Max (German, born Bohemia, 1840-1915)

Seifenblasen (Soap Bubbles), 1881

Oil on fabric

42 ½ x 31 ¾ in.

Frye Art Museum, Founding Collection, Gift of Charles and Emma Frye, 1952.111

Photo: Eduardo Calderón

GET INSPIRED

Here is a photograph by Seattle-based artist, Issac Layman. It's one of the contemporary works in the Frye's collection.

Contemporary art is artwork that is produced by artists living in our time period. Layman is known for his large-scale photographs of everyday objects.



Isaac Layman (American, b. 1977)
Untitled, 2011
Photographic construction, inkjet on paper
59 x 78 in.
Frye Art Museum, Purchased with funds provided
by the Randolph Philip Koelsch Bequest, 2011.009

Take a moment to look closely at this image.

- What might the object in this photograph be? How would you describe the object? What more can you find?
- Even though we might be able to guess the object in this photograph, the image itself is fairly abstract. In art, something that is **abstract** is more about the lines, shapes, and colors, as well as the feelings it expresses, and not so much about the actual subject. Abstract art can be interpreted differently by everyone who sees it. Using your imagination, can you find a face hidden in this photograph? How about an animal? Is there something else that you recognize?
- How does this artwork make you feel? And why?
- The artist doesn't have a title for this work. How would you title this artwork?

MAKE SOME ART

Now that we have found bubbles in two works of art, let's make some bubble prints. The Frye's Art Educator, Lynn Chou, created a video of the search for bubbles in artworks along with a demonstration of the art activity. As a bonus, the video also has a reading of *Big Bad Bubbles*, written by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Daniel Salmieri, a story about monsters in La La Land and their fear of bubbles. You can watch the video and find more family-friendly art activities on the Frye From Home blog: <https://www.fryemuseum.blog/blog/frye-families-bubbles>

You will need...

- A drinking straw
- Water
- Liquid dish soap
- Liquid watercolor paint or food coloring
- Heavyweight paper, such as watercolor paper or cardstock
- Containers or cups with a wide opening
- Cookie tray or a surface you can easily wipe down

Let's get started

1. To start, we need to make some bubbles. Fill a container partly with water, leaving some room for bubbles to form.
2. Add about a teaspoon of dish soap, as well as a few drops of liquid watercolor paint or food coloring into the water. You can always add more liquid watercolor or food coloring if the color isn't dark enough after the first try. Stir the mixture with your straw.
3. You can start blowing gently into the water with the straw. Make sure you blow through your straw and do not drink the liquid.
4. Once you have a little mountain of bubbles, take a sheet of paper and think about the **composition**, or the way things are arranged, of the bubbles on the paper: Will they be in the center of the page? Or coming off one side? When you're ready, gently dab the paper over the bubbles. If there are any bubbles on the paper, you can leave them on your paper because it will create a darker ring of color as it dries.
5. Once the print is dry, you have a few different options. You can add another layer of bubbles in another color on top, draw on top of it, cut or tear it up and collage with it, or even turn it into a greeting card. We cannot wait to see what you come up with!

SHARE YOUR WORK

Each of the prints you make will be one-of-a-kind. Tell someone about what you learned and the artwork you created. Consider sending a picture of your artwork to someone you haven't seen in a while and share your answers to these questions with them.

- What kinds of **shapes** can you find in your print? Describe what you see.
- What colors can you find in your print? **Warm colors** like red, yellow, and orange remind you of things that are warm, like fire. **Cool colors** like blue, green, and purple remind you of things that are cool, like the ocean. Does your print have warm or cool colors?
- If you were to make another bubble print, what might you do differently?

Don't forget to share your finished work with us on social media using #FryeFromHome!