Welcome to the *Ways of Seeing* exhibition at the NYUAD Art Gallery! I’m a docent here and I will be guiding you through this exhibition.

*Ways of Seeing* explores the different ways of looking at art and how our perception of what we see depends on who we are, where we come from, and how we were brought up.

This exhibition includes 41 works by 26 artists and artist collectives. Together, we will explore the works of 10 artists, and after the tour you can explore the rest on your own.

Let’s get started!
This is an art installation by Hans-Peter Feldman. It consists of a white pedestal, a box of “Milky Way” chocolate bars, and a sign with the word **NO**.

How do you think the artist wants you to interact with the work? What do you think the word “NO” means? Would you take a chocolate bar?
James Casebere questions the truthfulness of photography in his artwork. The photographs in this exhibition show what seems to be a nice and quiet neighborhood. In reality, what we see is an architectural model that the artist built and photographed to look like a real community of houses.

What is unusual about this photo? Use the sticker sheet to create your own story about the photograph by adding objects and drawing other elements.
Sometimes when we look at photographs of historical events, we are unable to fully understand how big or shocking they really are.

In this artwork, Gustav Metzger uses photos from historical events. He makes them large but hidden behind a cloth. This way we cannot see all of the image, just like we cannot see all of history.

Think of an important historical event you learned at school or heard on the news. Find a picture of this event and stick it below (draw the event if you can’t find a picture of it). When you are done, glue a piece of tissue or cloth to conceal it.
Salvador Dali is one of the most important artists in the Surrealist art movement. He used psychoanalysis and dreams to create his artwork. In this work, he plays with familiar objects by changing their appearances and functions. Observe the work closely, can you identify the objects he used?

Inspired by Dali’s artwork, think of three different objects with different functions from your daily life. This can be your favorite food, or a body part, or your favorite animal. Combine these 3 objects in one artwork below.
Andreas Gursky creates large-scale photographs by weaving together several photos of the same place or landscape, so they form one large photo. It’s like putting together a puzzle. This process creates what is called “composite images.”

By using this technique, the viewer is able to see details that are not visible in photos taken in one single shot by regular cameras. This is due to the limitation of the camera’s depth of field which only allows for one area to be in focus.

Observe the artwork from a distance then walk closer to it. Observe all the different shapes, forms, and elements in the photo. Look closely at each island. What do you see?

In the frame below, draw a zoomed-in view of the details you find. You can also create an abstract artwork using the patterns and lines you see on the islands.
To create this artwork, the artist took over 50,000 photos of a single event. The artist then selected 600 photos and edited them in a sequence to create this video. Each photo shows one part of that moment.

Observe the video for a few minutes to see as many photos as possible. What is the moment the artist wanted to capture? Draw that moment here based on what you remember from the photos.
James Turrell questions our understanding of sculpture and space by using light as a medium to create artworks. He uses light projections to create what we see as 3-dimensional geometric objects that don’t exist in reality. This is an illusion created by matching the colors of the light to those of the walls and the entire room.

James Turrell. *Alta (Pink)*, 1968
Create your own Turrell-inspired artwork by turning a flat object into a 3-dimensional one. Follow the instructions below. You can also create holes in the shape and point a flashlight through them to experiment with light and shadow.
Cindy Sherman uses photography to explore ideas of identity and representation. She has produced hundreds of images of herself in many different characters and personas. To create her photographs, she takes the role of the photographer, the model, the costume designer, the make up artist and the stylist. She alters her looks with makeup and wigs and creates an imaginary setting in which the character lives.

Have you ever imagined yourself as a different person? Perhaps a superhero or a character from your favorite book? Draw your new character below.
At first glance, this artwork looks like it could be a historical map of an old city. Get closer to look and read what the map says. Is it still a map of a city?

Artist Grayson Perry used historical maps as a style reference to create his self-portrait. He used his personality traits, strengths and weaknesses to mark street names, creating a different way of looking at artists’ self-portraits.

Zoom in to a specific part of the map. Think of adjectives that describe your personality and add them as street names. Don’t forget to draw your portrait in the big oval below.
This guide accompanies the exhibition *Ways of Seeing* at the Art Gallery of New York University Abu Dhabi, on view from September 3 to November 17, 2018 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

This exhibition is curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath.

The guide was developed and designed by Alaa Edris and Wafa Ibrahim.

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