

## How to Use the *Looking at Art* Resource Kit

**Resource Kit Description:** How do people look at art and understand its meaning? What is abstract art, and how does anyone know what it means? This resource kit guides students through a step-by-step process for understanding artwork. Students will practice observing and analyzing artwork through various models and exercises, including poetry analysis.

All of the artwork featured in this Resource Kit is by David C. Driskell, a prominent African American artist of the twentieth and twenty-first century. The kit focuses on analyzing representational art; abstract art analysis can be found in a different resource kit.

**Grade Bands:** 6-8, 9-12

**Subject:** The Arts (visual)

**Standards:** Common Core standards differ from module to module.

**For All Learners:** All PDF resources use the Arial font, which is easier for students with dyslexia. Several terms are defined within the modules for easy access. Information and activities are chunked to ease facilitation, pacing, and engagement. Spanish language resources can be obtained by emailing the Driskell Center directly at [driskellcenter@umd.edu](mailto:driskellcenter@umd.edu).

The modules in *Looking at Art* are designed to build upon each other. Each module contains a model of the skill being taught and an opportunity for students to practice the skill on their own. *Describing* contains an extra optional activity to apply the skill to their own art. Two modules, *Symbolism* and *Mood*, incorporate poetry into the lessons. Teaching this is also optional, but resources are available in the modules for guiding students through analyzing the poems provided and the exercises are useful in arts classes as well as English classes.

### Approximate Length of Modules:

- *Step 1, The Basics:* 5-10 minutes
- *Step 2, Describing:* 10-20 minutes without the family exercise; pacing is at teacher's discretion with the exercise
- *Step 3, Symbolism:* 20 minutes without the poetry exercise; pacing is at teacher's discretion with the exercise
- *Step 4, Mood:* 20 minutes without the poetry exercise; pacing is at teacher's discretion with the exercise
- *Step 5, Analyzing:* 20 minutes