



Kids

**GALLERY
GUIDE**

**John Singer Sargent's
Mrs. Carl Meyer
and Her Children**

Sep 16, 2016 – Feb 5, 2017



Enter the exhibition and find the painting of Adèle Meyer with her daughter Elsie and son Frank.

John Singer Sargent was an artist who lived from 1856 until 1925 and was well known for his daring portraits, which often featured unexpected poses, luxurious textures, and a striking color palette. Spend some time looking at this eye-catching painting and discuss the following together.

The Meyer Family

What do you notice about the people in this painting?

- Describe the scene in the background. Where might this be? How can you tell?
- Choose one person that stands out to you. Describe the clothes he or she is wearing. Look closely at the fabric. What colors has the painter Sargent used to create it? How do you think the fabric might feel?
- Describe the pose of the person you have chosen. Does he or she seem relaxed or uncomfortable? What makes you say so?
- What might your character be thinking based on his or her facial expression? In the space below, write a short sentence from the perspective of this person imagining what they are thinking:

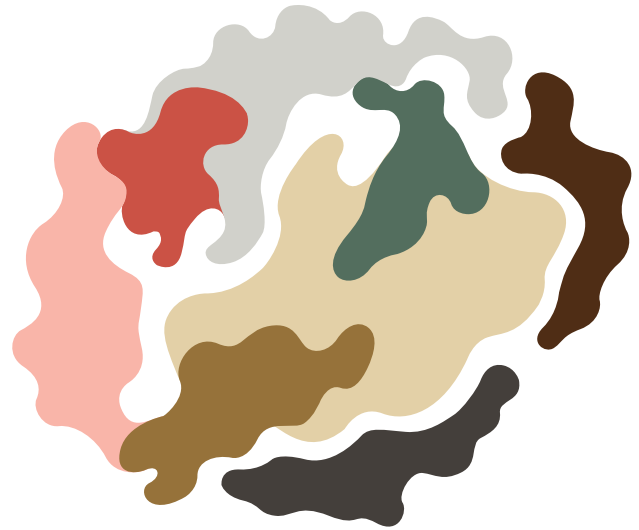
Your Family Portrait

If you were to have a portrait made of you and your family, what would you want included and why?

- What would you be wearing?
- Where would it take place?
- What objects would you include?
- How would you pose? Strike that pose for your grown-ups and, if you like, have them take a picture of you.

Look again at the painting of Mrs. Meyer.

- Which colors do you notice?
- Find the colors below in this painting.



- Where do you notice light in the painting?
- Where do you notice shadows?

Sargent was known for leaving his brushwork visible.

- If you look closely, can you see the brushstrokes of certain colors?
- Where can you see separate brushstrokes and where do they blend together?



At home

Create your own family portrait. Start by sketching the portrait with pencil on paper, and then add color using your choice of paint or colored pencils.

- Think about the setting of your family portrait. Will it be in your home? Will it take place outdoors or at a favorite weekend spot?
- What will the people wear? Which objects might you include? Where will you place each person in the portrait?

Thank you for visiting the Jewish Museum – we hope you enjoyed the exhibition!

For information on Family Programs at the Jewish Museum, visit [TheJewishMuseum.org/Families](https://www.thejewishmuseum.org/families) or sign up for our eNews at [TheJewishMuseum.org/eNews](https://www.thejewishmuseum.org/eNews).

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Front (detail) and inside (full): John Singer Sargent, *Mrs. Carl Meyer and her Children*, 1896, oil on canvas. Tate: Bequeathed by Adèle, Lady Meyer 1930, with a life interest for her son and grandson and presented in 2005 in celebration of the lives of Sir Anthony and Lady Barbadee Meyer, accessioned 2009.

Poster: Herbert von Herkomer, *Carl Meyer*, 1908, oil on canvas. Private collection, United Kingdom.



5th Ave at 92nd St, NYC
[TheJewishMuseum.org](https://www.thejewishmuseum.org)
Under the auspices of the
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