

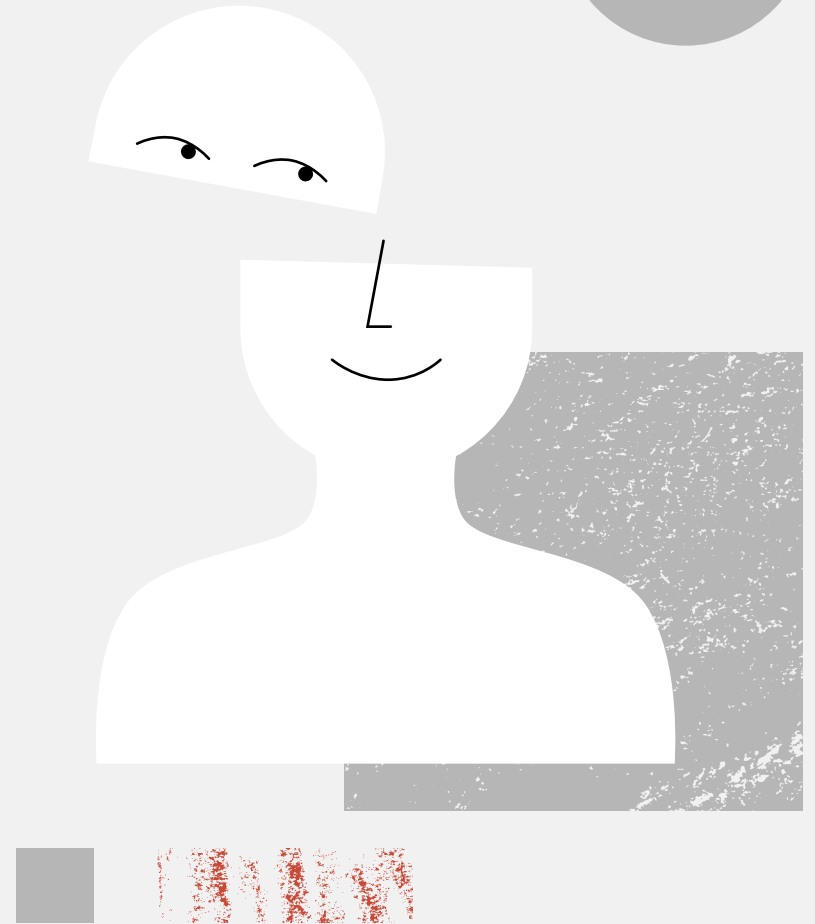
Kids Gallery Guide

**Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich:
The Russian Avant-Garde in
Vitebsk, 1918 – 1922**

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In 1919 the artist Marc Chagall opened the People's Art School in the Russian city of Vitebsk. The art in this exhibition was created by the teachers and students at the school. Most of the art is abstract, meaning that the artist uses simple shapes that might make you feel a certain way instead of looking exactly like something in the real world.



Begin on the second floor. Make a left when you exit the elevator and enter the exhibition. Look at the work of art to the right of the fireplace called, ***Anywhere out of the World*** by Marc Chagall.

- How did Chagall paint the figure and the town?
- Why do you think an artist might decide to break up the parts of a figure?

Move past the next gallery and enter the third room. Find a pink, green, and yellow painting at the far end of the gallery called *Cubist Landscape*, by Marc Chagall.

- How is this painting similar or different from the one you just observed?
- In Cubist paintings, artists capture important shapes, textures, or words from the world around them.
- Describe what you see in this landscape.

Look at the large wall to your left filled with artwork by David Yakerson.

- What shapes do you notice on this wall?
- Composition is the way that objects are arranged in a work of art. Describe the way that the shapes are positioned in each painting.

In the space below make three different drawings using the same three shapes. Create a new composition for each drawing.

1

2

3

The drawing prompts are arranged on a red background. Prompt 1 is a white rectangle containing a white circle in the top right, a grey square in the bottom left, and a grey rectangle with a white diagonal line in the bottom center. Prompt 2 is a white rectangle containing a white circle in the top right, a grey square in the bottom left, and a grey rectangle with a white diagonal line in the bottom center. Prompt 3 is a white rectangle containing a white circle in the top right, a grey square in the bottom left, and a grey rectangle with a white diagonal line in the bottom center.

Enter the next gallery and at the end of the wall to your right find the album of figurines by El Lissitzky, for the opera *Victory Over the Sun*.

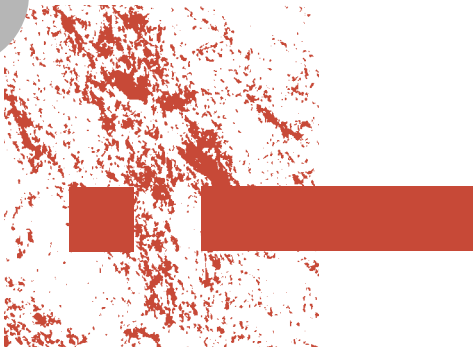
Choose one of the images and look closely.

- Do the shapes in this image look flat or three-dimensional? Do they look like people? Why or why not?
- Pose the way the figures are standing. Do you notice anything new?



Go to the final gallery and find the display case with sculptures by Kazimir Malevich.

- Malevich created these sculptures to explore his ideas about forms in architecture. Do these sculptures remind you of a city? Why or why not?
- In the space below, create a city scene made of shapes.



At Home

- Think of a place where you like to spend time. How might you recreate this place using only colorful shapes?
- Using scissors, cut shapes out of colorful paper and glue them to a large piece of paper to create a collaged scene of abstract forms.

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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Cover: Lazar Khidekel, *Suprematist Composition with Blue Square* (detail), 1921. Ink, watercolor, and graphite on paper. Lazar Khidekel Family Archives and Art Collection.

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