Hi! My name is Billy. I’m an educator at the Walker. I’m excited to show you some art that you can find at the museum or in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden next time you visit.

Many artists use their artwork to express ideas about people, places, and things they love. Today we’re going to investigate three works of art and think about how the artists are sharing their love with the world. All you need is a camera, marker, paper, and your imagination. The whole activity will take approximately 10 minutes. I’ll be asking you a few questions throughout the video, so you may want someone to watch with you so you can discuss what you see!

First, let’s explore this artwork by Cuban-born American artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres. Before I tell you the title, take a close look.

We see a single strand of 24 small, white lights pinned and hanging from a white wall. Two lights rest on the floor, along with the cord. The strand of lights is lit up.

What do you notice first?

A string of lights is an object that can remind us of a lot of things; a celebration, nighttime, holidays... so many different things. How does the work make you feel?
What word comes to mind when you look at it?

Does this work seem simple or complicated to you? Why?

This artwork is called "Untitled" (Last Light). The piece is made using twenty-four lightbulbs, an extension cord, plastic light sockets, and a dimmer switch.

This artwork was made to honor the artist’s partner who he loved dearly and who had passed away. How do you think Gonzalez-Torres is sharing love through this artwork?

Now it’s your turn to create an artwork that honors a person you love. Who do you want to honor with your artwork?

Why have you chosen that person?

When you think of this person, what are you reminded of? What do they like doing? What is their favorite color? If you had to choose an everyday object to represent that person as Felix Gonzalez-Torres did, what would you choose?

Let me give you an example.

I’m planning to make an artwork starting with this folding fan, it brings me so many memories, like my mother dancing flamenco. ¡Olé!

Ok, find an object to create your artwork, and arrange the item in a place in your home. Take a picture of it. Share the
picture with the person who inspired your artwork, or you can share your picture on social media using #walkerartcenter to share your love with other kids and families!

Let’s take a look at another work of art, a poster created by American pop and graffiti artist Keith Haring. Graffiti is a form of art where the artist makes marks or drawings in a public space without permission—usually on a wall, or other surface. Keith Haring often used materials like cardboard that were easy to find to create his unique paintings and posters. Take a close look.

We see a black and white photo of the artist holding up a large rectangular black and white poster. At the top of the poster in bubble letters it says, “Walker Art Center Artfest, May 20–June 2, 1984.” The rest of the space is filled with smiling cartoon characters drawn with thick black lines of paint. There are pigs, dogs, cats, what appears to be aliens with antennas, and other make-believe characters.

What do you notice first?

Take another close look at the outlines and shapes used by Haring. How would you describe them in one word?

Which figure do you like the best?

I think that Keith Haring’s style is very fun and animated. He used to listen to hip-hop music when he painted. What type
of music do you listen to when you want to feel energetic? Do any songs come to mind when you look at this poster?

Try this, choose a figure from the artwork and try to pose like them. How do you think these characters would move? Make up a dance, for example, showing how your character would move!

This artwork is a poster that Haring created especially for the Walker in 1984. The poster is promoting Artfest, a celebration held at the museum. Based on what you see, what do you think it would be like to attend Artfest?

Keith Haring loved to paint and share his artwork with the world. What do you like to do that you would want to share with the world?

Now it’s your turn to try creating a poster showing fun things you like to do!

Grab a marker, a large piece of paper or cardboard. Try using thick lines to create outlines of letters and illustrations. Haring painted free form without creating a sketch first, but you might want to draw an outline with pencil before going over it with marker.

Take a picture of yourself holding your poster and share it with us to let us know what you love doing. Post it on social media adding #walkerartcenter to share with other kids and families!
The last artwork we’re going to explore today was created collaboratively by sculptor Claes Oldenburg and his partner artist Coosje van Bruggen. This huge sculptural fountain was built for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in 1988. It is called *Spoonbridge and Cherry*. Take a close look. We see an enormous silver spoon with a red cherry perched in it. The handle of the spoon rests on a patch of grass, and the other end rests in a pond. The black stem of the cherry is spraying water, and in the background, we see other sculptures and trees in the Sculpture Garden, as well as some buildings in the background.

What do you notice?

Have you seen this sculpture before?

When I look at this sculpture, the first word that comes to mind is dessert! What word comes to your mind?

Why do you think the artists decided to create a sculpture of a spoon and cherry?

One of the most noticeable things about *Spoonbridge and Cherry* is its size. What do you notice about the size of this sculpture? How does it compare to the trees and buildings around it? How much bigger do you think it is than you?

Claes and Coosje made the sculpture as a symbol of collaboration, which is a fancy word for teamwork. Have you ever worked on something as part of a team? Maybe you’ve
played on a sports team or have sung in a choir. What did it feel like to be part of a team?

Coosje created many public sculptures all over the world along with her husband. What else do you think Claes and Coosje might be inspired by?

Let me give you an example. I’m planning to make a sculpture to honor Pelé, my favorite soccer player when I was a kid. I’m going to use these objects because I used to play soccer and I always remember my grandmother serving coffee to the family. They are also different in size.

I want to leave you with one more challenge. Team up with a member of your family or a friend. Create a model for a sculpture inspired by *Spoonbridge and Cherry*. Each of you choose an object you have at home to make up one of the two parts of the sculpture. Arrange the items and take a picture of your final model from far away, and then another picture up close. How does the size change? We would love to see it! Share with us and other families by posting it on social media.

I want to thank you all for joining me to talk about how these artists express love through their art! The next time you visit the Walker or the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, be sure to remember to take a close look at the art, and then based on what you notice, think about what the artist might be trying to tell you! See you next time!