

Teen Studio Series Gallery Guide Part 1

**Teen
Programs**

The Teen Advisory Board recommends that you check out these three artists who each made their own way in the art world. As you are looking, take time to notice what you see and how each artist is unique. We've outlined questions for you to consider as you examine each artwork and encourage you to take your time and discover what makes you curious.

Thornton Dial: *New Light* **Gallery 11**

1. Check out the layers and colors in this artwork. Where do you see light? Darkness?
2. The artist Thornton Dial said that this piece relates to the time when his town got electricity-- much later than the white communities around his own, a result of inequitable provision of services during the Jim Crow era in American history. What inequities still exist in America today?
3. Find other artists in this gallery using the contrast between light and dark to make a statement. Are there others commenting on history? Places? People? Ideas?

Jessie T Pettway: *Bars and String-Pieced Columns* **Gallery 16**

1. What do you notice about the composition (how are the parts arranged)?
2. Jessie T Pettway said that her aunt had a book of traditional quilt patterns but that she preferred to make something pretty in her own way from old clothes. Why do you

sometimes choose to follow a pattern or break away and create something different?

3. How do other artists in this gallery incorporate color? Find another piece that uses color and shape in a repetitive way.

Gaston Chaissac: *Figure with Green Hair* **Gallery 50A**

1. What part of this depiction is the most realistic and what part is the most abstract?
2. When this was painted, in 1960, it would have been unlikely that the subject actually had hair dyed green. What do you think the artist was expressing about this person by changing up the colors?
3. Check out other portraits in this narrow gallery. If you were to make your own portrait, what colors would you choose to express your personality? What style would you choose realistic or abstract?