

Exploring *Puzzlehead*: Activity Sheet

This work, *Puzzlehead*, was created by a group of modernist artists that lived in Bucks County during the 1930s. These artists called themselves *The Cooperative Painting Project*. They experimented with bold colors, abstract forms and shapes, and creative design. They were inspired by the improvisational style of jazz, and took turns to work together to produce a single work of abstract art just like this one shown on the right. See this work in high resolution on [Google Arts and Culture](#).



Kuramstonev (Stanley Kunitz, Charles F. Ramsey, Louis K. Stone, Charles Evans), *Puzzlehead*, 1938, pastel on paper, H. 28 x W. 20 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum. Gift of Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest.

Take a Closer Look!

What do you see in this painting? Discuss all of its details.

Does it look like this work was created by four artists? Why or why not?

Even though this work was inspired by improvisation, does it look spontaneous or carefully planned? Why or why not?

Does this artwork look like it could be inspired by jazz? Why or why not?

What does this artwork remind you of? Why?

(See other side...)

Collaborative Poetry!

Have you worked on a project with more than one person? Sometimes it can be fun and sometimes it's not easy.

Find a few family members or friends. Just like the artists who created this artwork, create a poem together! Have one person write a line about this work, and then pass it to the next person. Continue doing this until everyone in your group has had a chance. The first person must think about the opening line and the last person will need to conclude the poem. When you finish your poem, read it out loud for everyone to hear and then give it a title!

Title of Poem: _____

1st line: _____

2nd line: _____

3rd line: _____

4th line: _____

5th line: _____

6th line: _____

Alternate Collaborative Word/Phrase Activity:

Working with a friend or classmate, write down 10 words or phrases that come to mind as you look at this artwork (or any work of art!). Once you are finished, take turns reading your words or phrases aloud to each other. What did you get?