

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

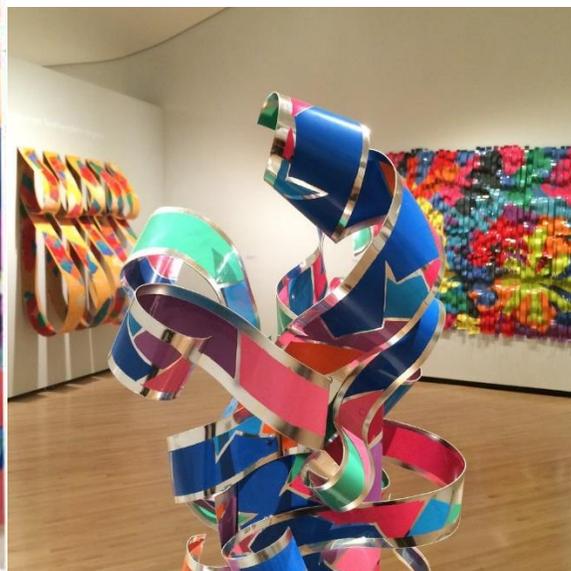
Spotlight on CAM's Collection

DOROTHY GILLESPIE

About the Artist:

"Do the very best you can with whatever your passions are and let the chips fall where they may."

Dorothy Gillespie (1920 – 2012) was an American painter and sculptor who enjoyed an artistic career that spanned over 70 years. Known for her tremendous output of colorful, joyful sculptural art, she was among those who blazed a path for women artists during the feminist art movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Gillespie created a monumental 62-foot-tall sculpture in Orlando, Fla., that hung through the center of a spiral parking garage. Called "Encircled Path to the Enchanted Castle," the towering piece was destroyed by a hurricane after its debut in 1998. Gillespie had all its pieces recovered and used them to make new sculptures. Gillespie's bright, flower-like creations made of metal and paint have flashed their colors at the Lincoln Center in New York and the Epcot Center in Orlando, Fl. She also created an installation that transformed Rockefeller Center into a pastel fantasy garden of plant-like sculptures, some taller than 20 feet. "I could have done something that would have blown your head off because it was so fanciful and so wild, but I didn't want to do that, I wanted to make it work with a very important building." Gillespie owned a house in Wilmington's historic district and lectured at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). Gillespie's sculptures from her Rockefeller Center Exhibit are currently on display in CAM's courtyard and will be up through March 2021 as part of the Dorothy Gillespie Centennial Celebration. You can see them when walking CAM's grounds.



ART AT HOME – Colorful 3D Totem

What You Will Need:

- Paper Towel Roll
- Several toilet paper rolls (3 or more)
- Bright colored paint (tempura or acrylic)
- Paint brushes
- Hot glue or another strong glue
- Table Cover
- Tape
- Cardboard sheet (side of a cereal box size)

Look at images of Gillespie’s sculpture and totems. Notice the bright colors and free flowing shapes she incorporates into her work. Use this as inspiration for the work you will create!

- Step 1 – Tape your paper towel roll to the cardboard base. Do not worry about the tape showing – you will be painting over it.
- Step 2 – Peel your toilet paper rolls into strips by pulling them carefully apart. Allow them to remain “curly”.
- Step 3 – Paint each strip of the toilet paper rolls, front and back, using a variety of bright colors.
- Step 4 – While your strips are drying, paint the base and paper towel roll using bright colors.
- Step 5 – Allow all painted pieces to dry thoroughly.
- Step 6 – Using your strong glue, attach the painted strips to the totem, making sure to place them in a way that lets them flare out, like Gillespie’s sculptures.
- Step 7 – Clean your work area.

Tips:

- Think about the colors you will paint with before you begin. Be sure to choose colors that will look fun together!
- If you are working with hot glue, be extremely careful and be sure to have a parent or adult present.

Questions for Discussion:

- What does your totem look like to you? Did you mean for it to look a certain way, or did it happen naturally?
- Give your work a title.
- Dorothy Gillespie displayed her work on floors, walls and ceilings. Where do you think your totem would look best – displayed standing up, on its side or upside down?

Follow Up Project Idea:

- Add to your totem with decorative touches, such as tin foil, sequins, colorful gems, etc.

