



# Experience Backpacks!

### ACTIVITY FOCUS AND GOALS

- Empower students to interpret art through their lens
- Make the connection between life experiences and how we view art

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Optional: list of recommended works to facilitate conversation

### STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

- We all have invisible backpacks where we store our past experiences. These experiences filter the way we view art.
- Have the group gather around a specific work of art
- Ask the following questions to the whole group
  - Does this work of art bring up any feelings, like joy or anxiety for anyone?
  - Does this work of art remind anyone of a past experience they have had?
- Then, ask if anyone would like to guess to what is happening in the work? Ask if others agree or have a different interpretation. What past experiences make them think this is what's going on?

### VALIDATION

We recommend having students snap after each turn as a way to validate each student's personal experiences.