



INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY
ART / BOSTON

Pre-Visit Guide for K-12 Group Visits: A Social Narrative

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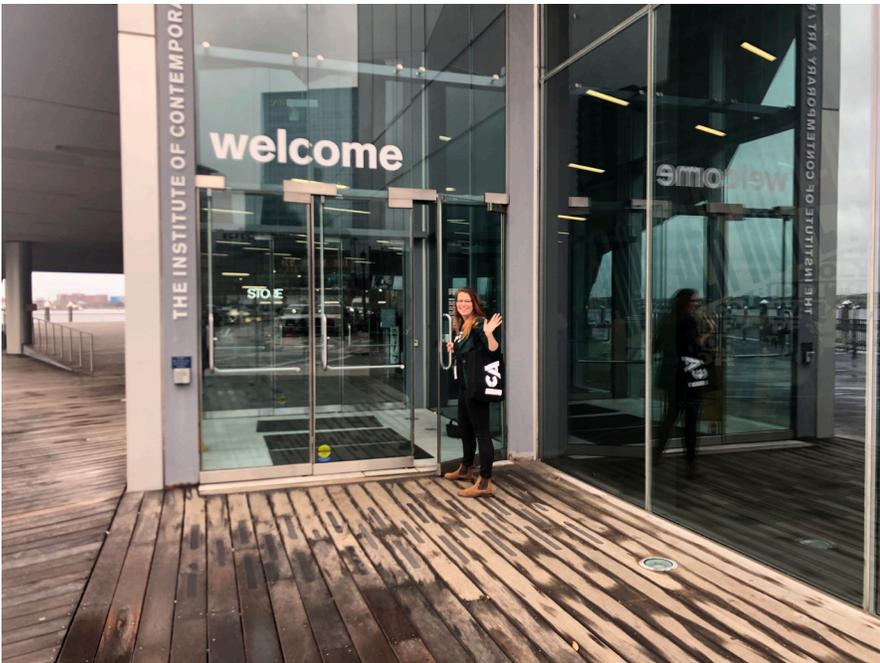
Today we are going to the ICA. ICA stands for Institute of Contemporary Art. It is a contemporary art museum in Boston.



Contemporary art is art made in recent times. Contemporary artists often experiment with materials and don't always use them in usual ways. We may see some things in the museum that we don't expect to be called art.

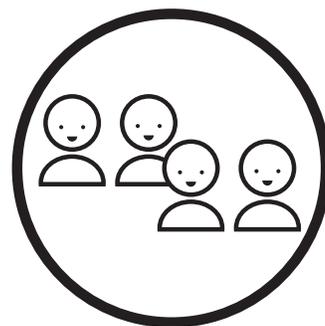


When we arrive at the ICA, we will enter the lobby. We will wait in line to put our jackets, backpacks, and lunch boxes in a large bin. Our jackets, backpacks, and lunch boxes will be safe in the large bin. An ICA educator will come say hello and talk with us about our plans for the day.



While we are at the ICA, we need to remember these rules:

- When we are near artwork, we will look with our eyes and not touch it.
- We will stay together as a group.
- We will not bring any food or drink into the museum galleries.
- We will speak with indoor voices and listen to ICA staff and gallery teachers.



Before we visit the art exhibitions, we can use the restrooms or drink water from the drinking fountains on the first floor. There are also restrooms and a drinking fountain on the fourth floor.



The art exhibitions are on the fourth floor.
To get there, we will take the glass elevator
or stairs.



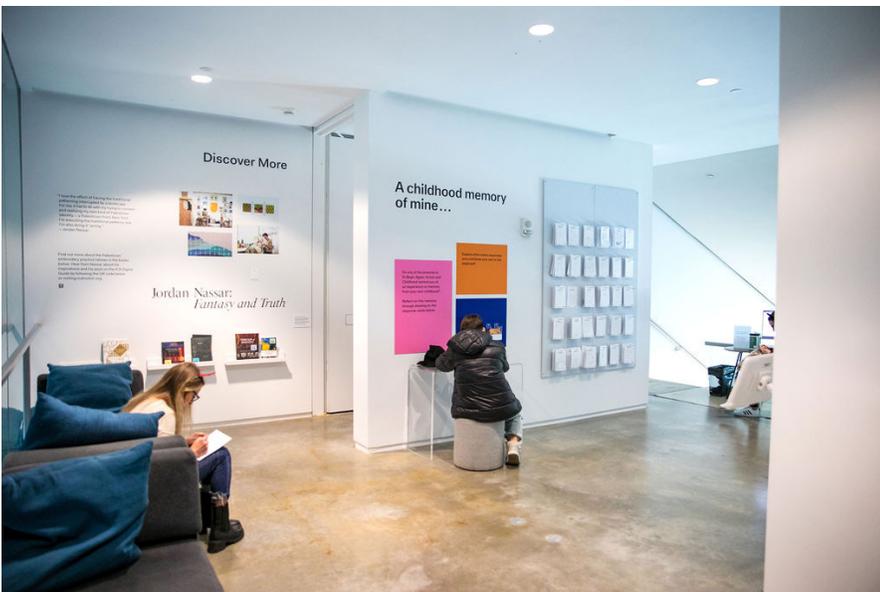
In the art exhibitions, we will see people dressed in all black and wearing buttons that say “Ask Me!” These are Visitor Assistants. Their job is to keep people and the art safe, and to help people learn about the art. If we get too close to the art, a Visitor Assistant will remind us to move back. It is okay to get reminders.



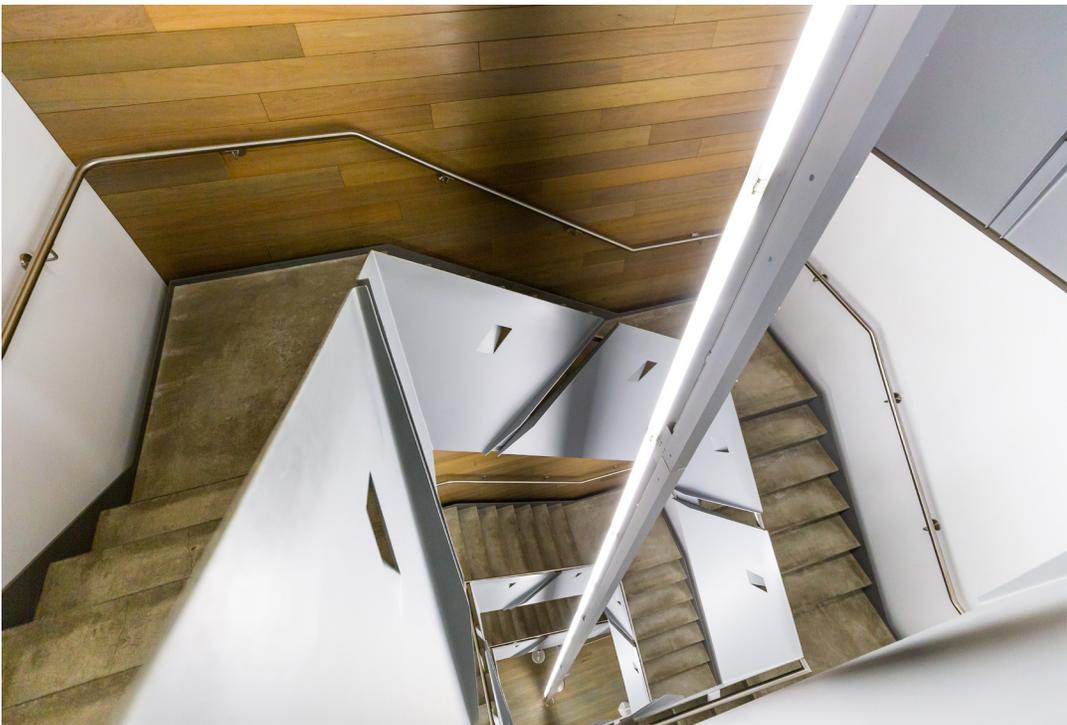
While we look at the art exhibitions,
the gallery teacher will talk about the art
and ask us questions. We can share
if we want to, but we don't have to share.
We may like what we see, or we may not.
It is okay to say what we think.



Some of the art exhibitions will be bright and loud. Some may be dark and quiet. Sometimes the galleries will be crowded. If we feel overwhelmed and want to leave a space, we will tell our teacher or chaperone and we can rest in the Poss Family Mediatheque, John Hancock Founders Gallery, or first floor lobby.



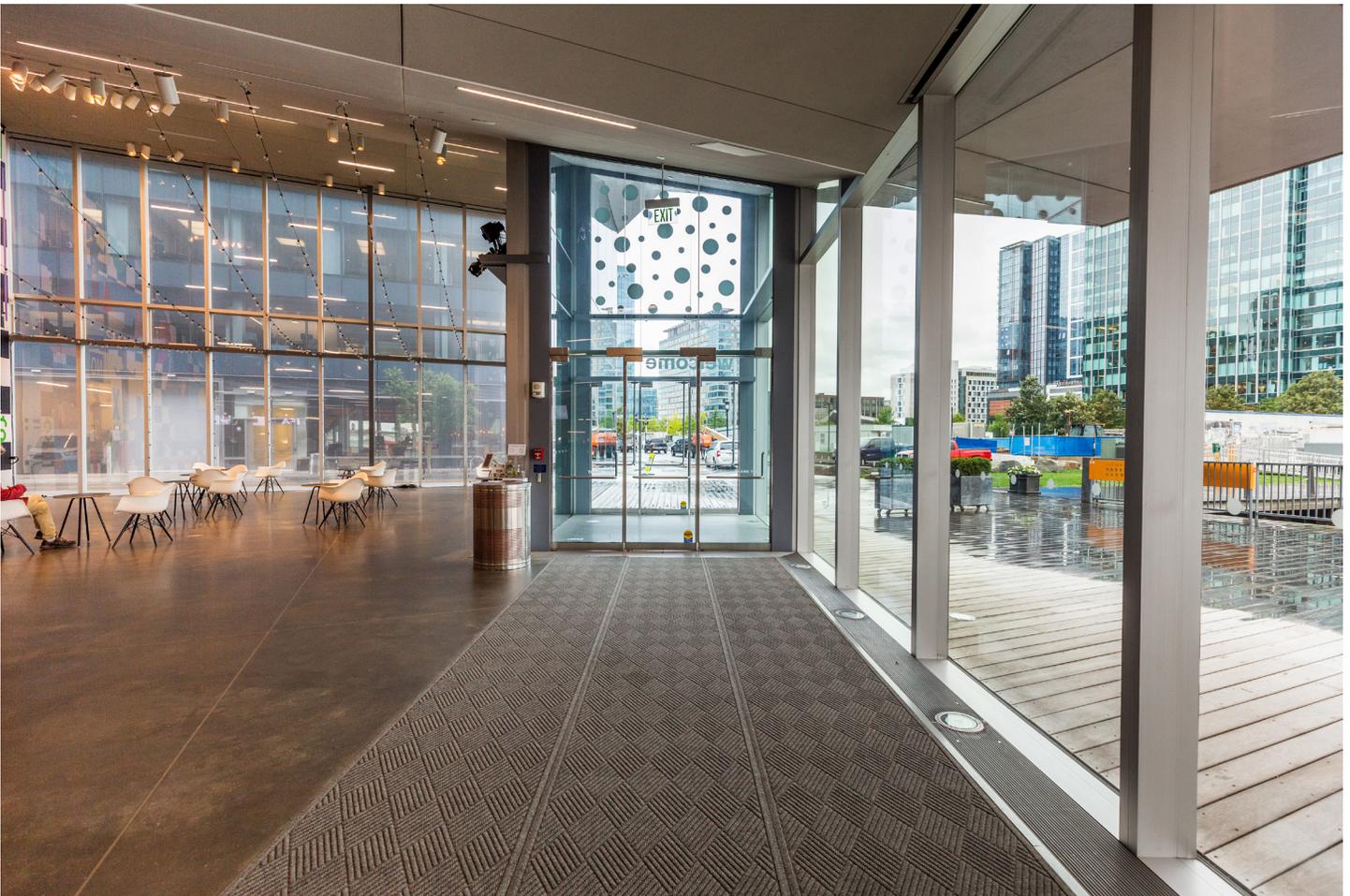
When our visit is over, we will return to the first floor using the elevator or stairs.



If our group leader signed up for an art-making workshop, we will now go to the Bank of America Art Lab on the first floor. In the Art Lab we will listen to the Art Lab teacher give us instructions. Then we will make our own art. At the end of our visit, we will get to take our art home with us.



When it is time to leave, we will pick up our jackets, backpacks, and lunch boxes from the large bins. We will leave the museum through the same door we used to enter. We can come back to the museum and have fun on another day. The exhibits change often, so next time we can see something new!



Thank you to the staff at Open Door Arts for advising the production of this guide. The ICA welcomes and endeavors to provide a positive, engaging, and inclusive experience for all visitors. Learn more about our accessibility initiatives: icaboston.org/accessibility.

- p. 2 Photo by Meg Elkinton
- p. 3 Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2009. Mixed media, 97 x 26 x 20 inches (246.4 x 66 x 50.8 cm). Gift of Steve Corkin and Dan Maddalena. Photo by James Prinz Photography. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York. © Nick Cave. Josiah McElheny, *Czech Modernism Mirrored and Reflected Infinitely*, 2005. Mirrored glass case with hand-blown mirrored glass objects, 18 1/2 x 56 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches (47 x 143.5 x 77.5 cm). Acquired through funds provided by Bridgitt and Bruce Evans, Kimberly and James Pallotta, Beth and Anthony Terrana, and Nancy B. Tieken in honor of Jill Medvedow. © Josiah McElheny
- p. 4 Left, photo by Amy Briggs Kemeza. Right, photo by Mel Taing
- p. 6 Right, photo by Mel Taing
- p. 7 Photos by Mel Taing
- p. 8 Photos by Amy Briggs Kemeza
- p. 9 Photos by Lauren Miller
- p. 10 Left, photo by Meg Elkinton. Right, photo by Lauren Miller
- p. 11 Photos by Mel Taing
- p. 12 Photo by Lauren Miller
- p. 13 Photo by Mel Taing