

EXPLORING FAMILY RHYTHMS



at the Tempe Center for the Arts

Name _____

VISUAL RHYTHMS

Have you ever wanted to move your body or clap your hands to the rhythm of a song? Did you know that visual artworks can have rhythm in a way like music does? Visual artists create rhythms by repeating visual elements both to keep the viewer's eye moving and to unify the artwork.


Look for work by Lynette Andreassen (pictured right). Where can you find rhythms? The rhythm of the scalloped border is the same all the way around. There are also rhythms in the center of the piece – in the even stitching that outlines the figures and in the repeated similar shapes of heads and legs.




Lynette Andreassen

FAMILY RHYTHMS

Families also have rhythms that repeat over time, such as the things that usually happen in a family each day, each week, each year or even from one generation to the next. Many family rhythms are predictable, like waking up, going to school or work, celebrating holidays, welcoming new babies and saying goodbye to relatives who pass away.

1) On the back of this paper, draw a visual rhythm you see in any of Andreassen's pieces. 

2) On the back of this paper, list repeated daily, weekly, yearly and/or generational events in your family. 



SUGG HOUSE RHYTHMS

Look for the series of digital photo montages by Stephen Marc that show the life of the Sugg family through the years, decades and centuries. William Sugg was brought to California as a slave during the gold rush in 1855. He bought his freedom in 1854. He and his wife married in 1855 and eventually had 11 children. They built a small adobe home, which was later expanded into a two-story house where the family took in boarders.

Answer on the back of this paper:

3) Where can you find rhythms in Sugg House #2 (lace, porch posts, wooden siding, quilt, stair steps, wood grain...)? 

4) Which of the visual rhythms in the montage suggest Sugg family values or feelings, for example, strength, transition, order, growth, refinement...? Explain. 