



AN EYE ON ART

Valse de l'Eau 1988

Roberta Schofield
American, b. 1945

Oil on board
Museum Purchase through the General Acquisition Fund
Polk Museum of Art Permanent Collection 1992.40

In general, my work is about relationships: paradoxes and complements, denials and reinforcements create fluid meaning and frozen imagery. Controlled lighting, and the application of artificial color to staged arrangements suggest familiar beings and environments that, with the use of drapery as subject, create other and stranger meanings. In Valse de l'Eau, the colors and shapes refer to a sunset over water, the figures to memory shapes of people... perhaps a dream.

— Roberta Schofield

Topic

Pareidolia: A Visual Trick or Treat?

Pareidolia
(parr-i-DOH-lee-ə)

the human ability to see recognizable shapes, people, animals, or other figures in random objects, which are truly not there.

- What do you see in the painting above? Fabric? Curtains? Possibly figures?
- What might be the story behind this piece? What is going on? Is there anything that seems a bit sinister, perhaps? Spooky?
- How does this piece make you feel? Has your pareidolia kicked in to create what might feel like a trick or an unexpected visual treat to spark your imagination?



Activity

Pareidolia Scavenger Hunt & Illustration

Materials: Paper, Clipboard, Pencil, Colored Pencils, Imagination

- 1 Grab your paper, clipboard, pencil, colored pencils, and your imagination.
- 2 Start your hunt for pareidolia inspired images. Walk round your house (or outside safely) and be on the lookout for faces, figures, or shapes you may see within inanimate objects or within a grouping of inanimate objects. (Hint: Check out wooden items, trees, shadows, wallpaper, foods, etc.).
- 3 Once you spot an image, start drawing it right away.
- 4 When your drawing is done, add color to complete your illustrated finding.
- 5 Stand back and enjoy the image you have captured directly from your own pareidolia ability!
- 6 Now, go look for more!