

## LOOK AND DISCUSS



1. **Look closely** at *Untitled* by Julie Mehretu.
2. **What do you notice?** Discuss with a partner: What stands out to you? How would you describe the lines or marks the artist made in this drawing? What kind of images can you find?
3. **Reflect:** What do you think the artist was inspired by when making this drawing? What types of ideas or stories do you imagine when you look at this drawing?

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Julie Mehretu was born 1970 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and now lives and works in New York City. Mehretu draws inspiration from maps and how cities of the past and today are laid out. She uses a combination of ink and colored pencil to create a flurry of marks and illustrations that mirror the speed of urban life and its everchanging landscape.



Photograph by Jean Philippe Boucicaut

## MAKE

**Suggested Materials:** a map, magazines, colored pencils, markers, scissors, newspapers, markers, construction paper—use whatever you have available!

**Art in Action:** Listen to the music by Julie Mehretu's friend and musician, Jason Moran ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8mG4f\\_TXqk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8mG4f_TXqk)) as inspiration for the project or, listen to your favorite musicians!

1. Create expressive marks, using various drawing tools, that reflect your reactions to his music. What kinds of lines, shapes, colors and images come to mind when you listen your chosen music?
2. Cut out your map, pictures, and images from magazines into different shapes and sizes and scatter them throughout your drawing! What kind of experience do you want your drawing to make?
3. Embellish your drawing with more marks and keep layering in the spirit of Julie Mehretu's artwork!
4. Share your drawing with a friend or loved one and see if they can guess what kind of music inspired you!



Artwork by Sunny Ra

## LEARN MORE

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Julie Mehretu, *Entropia, (review)*, (detail), 2004, silkscreen and lithograph, The Studio Museum in Harlem; Museum purchase with funds provided by the Acquisition Committee

As a multicultural artist, Mehretu attempts to cross and break down social and political barriers by deconstructing images and maps of cities across the world and reimagining them in these large-scale abstract artworks.

“As I continue drawing, I find myself more and more interested in the idea that drawing can be an activist gesture. That drawing—as an informed, intuitive process, a process that is representative of individual agency and culture, a very personal process—offers something radical.” —Julie Mehretu



Julie Mehretu, *Haka (and Riot)*, 2019, ink and acrylic on canvas, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Andy Song M.2020.65a–b, Photograph by Tom Powel Imaging, © Julie Mehretu