

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE



Lois Swirnoff, *Wind/Wave*, 1975, lithograph, 17 x 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches,
Tang Teaching Museum collection, gift of Dwain G. Fuller, 1984.283

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE: LOIS SWIRNOFF

Look closely: Examine the artwork closely.

Investigate: Take about 10–15 minutes to write down and/or discuss your observations. Here are some things to think about to help you get started:

- How would you describe the lines used in this work?
- How would you describe the character of the colors? How does color create form and space?
- What kinds of emotions or associations does this artwork elicit?
- What kinds of sounds would you imagine or assign to the different elements of this print? If you had to describe this artwork using language we use to describe sound (loud, soft, slow, upbeat, etc.), how would you describe it?

Explain your ideas about the artwork, including how you understand it and why. What are you seeing that leads you to those ideas? Back up your ideas with visual evidence from the artwork. Ask yourself and others: What do you see that makes you say that?

Refer back to the artwork and look closer. What more can you find?

Reflect: What have you discovered from looking closely and writing and/or discussing the artwork with others? What did you discover about how you unpack and understand this print?

- Visual art can often inspire other forms of creative expression such as dance and music. How can art that evokes new creative responses add to our understanding of the work?
- How can color and lines create visual representations or illusions of space? How can these ideas connect with how we perceive both the physical and sensory experience of the real world?
- What are artworks that you have seen that made you think about other modes of expression such as movement, music, film, or literature?