

Hello!

I am an
activity guide
that will join
you in your
exploration of
Chris Ofili's
artworks in
Night and Day.

Who is Chris Ofili?

Chris Ofili was born in 1968 and grew up in Manchester, England. His family is of Nigerian descent, and the artist now lives in Trinidad. In 1992, he went on a trip to Zimbabwe and returned full of inspiration from the music, culture, and art that he found there. Over the last twenty years, Chris Ofili has explored lots of different materials, styles, and stories through his work. His exhibition invites us to take a journey with our imaginations and experience the different feelings that his work inspires.

Let's start in Gallery 6 looking at his *Afromuses*.

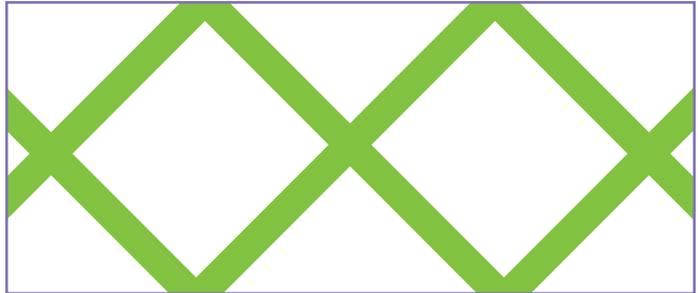
Pick your favorite couple and
create a story about them:

Where are they from?

How do they know each other?

Where do you think they are in
this image?

Now we're going to zoom in and look for this pattern in the gallery:



Can you find these shapes in other artworks by Chris Ofili or even in the building?

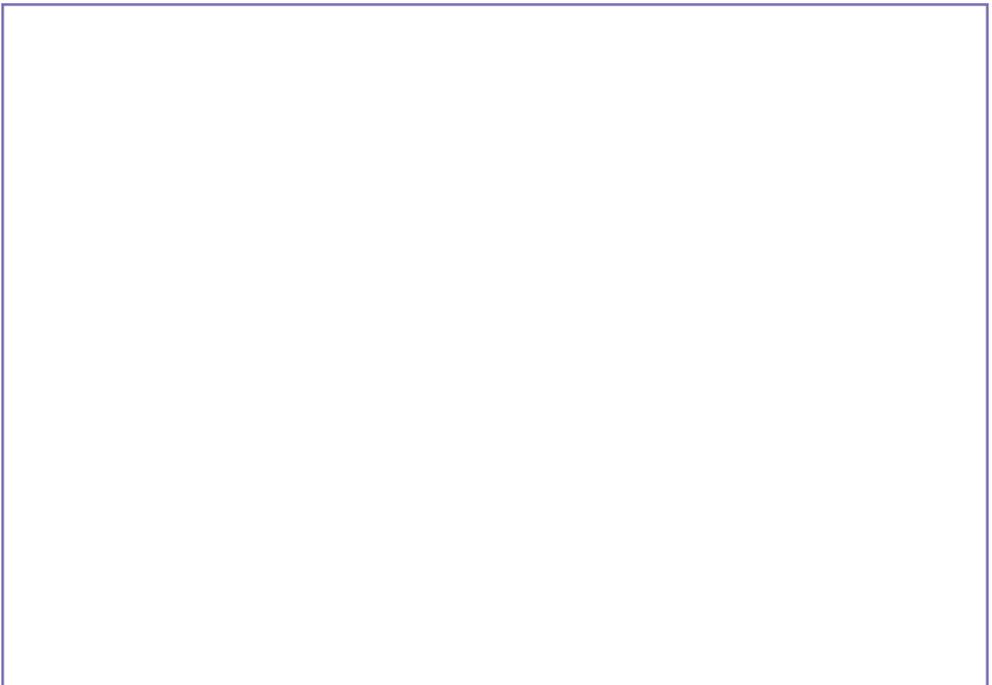
Did you know?

Chris Ofili usually makes each of his *Afromuses* all in one sitting, and often at nighttime.

**Let's go up to the
Street Level and find
the drawings called
Afro Margin.**

Look closely at one of the drawings. If the lines were musical notes, what kind of sound do you think they would make?

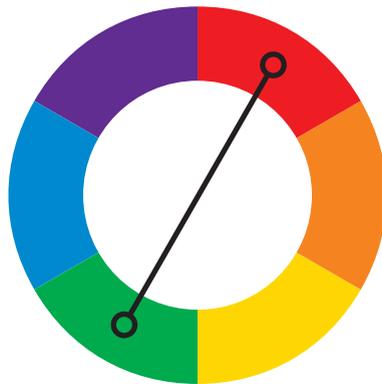
How would you create your own lines that look like sound?
Draw them here!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin purple border, intended for drawing lines that look like sound.

Now that we're in this gallery, we can learn about complementary colors.

Complementary color pairs are made up of one primary color (**red**, **blue**, or **yellow**) and one secondary color (**purple**, **orange**, and **green**) that are opposite each other on the color wheel.

Use this color wheel to connect the complementary colors:



Chris Ofili uses the complementary colors **red** and **green** in this gallery. Notice how energetic they seem next to each other.

Let's spend some time looking at the painting *Afro Red Web.*

How do the **red** and **green** colors
create balance?

Think of some words that
describe how these colors make
you feel:

Look more closely at the two
people in this painting. Discuss
with a friend:

Who are they?

What's happening now?

What might happen next?

Is it night or day?

Let's go up to Gallery 1 and I'll tell you a story.

Ovid is the name of a poet who lived over 2,000 years ago. He is famous for writing a long poem called *Metamorphoses*. It tells the story of what happened from the creation of the world all the way up until Ovid was alive.

Chris Ofili was interested in the part of Ovid's tale that focuses on Diana, the goddess of hunting.

One day, when Diana was taking a bath in a spring, Actaeon, a local man that she did not know, accidentally saw her. Feeling embarrassed, Diana covered herself and splashed water onto Actaeon, which turned him into a deer.

Ofilio based his painting *Ovid-Desire* on this story.

Let's investigate how the artist thought about this tale with questions we have already explored together.

How would you describe the colors?

What kind of lines has the artist used?

What do you think the relationship is between these figures?

What else can you discover?

Let's think about muses.

A muse is someone who is a source of inspiration. Ovid writes about muses in *Metamorphoses* and we've seen paintings of people that Chris Ofili calls *Afromuses*.

Now it's your turn!

Create a small drawing of someone who inspires you:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing of someone who inspires the user.

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[Also on View](#)
Spirit Photography
July 17–November 1
Gallery 4

10 AM–8 PM
Tuesday–Sunday
Closed Mondays

This publication accompanies the exhibition *Chris Ofili: Night and Day*, organized by the New Museum, New York. The exhibition at the New Museum was curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Artistic Director; Gary Carrion-Murayari, Kraus Family Curator; and Margot Norton, Associate Curator. At the Aspen Art Museum, the exhibition is overseen by Heidi Zuckerman, Nancy and Bob Magoon CEO and Director, and is on view from July 17–November 1, 2015.

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