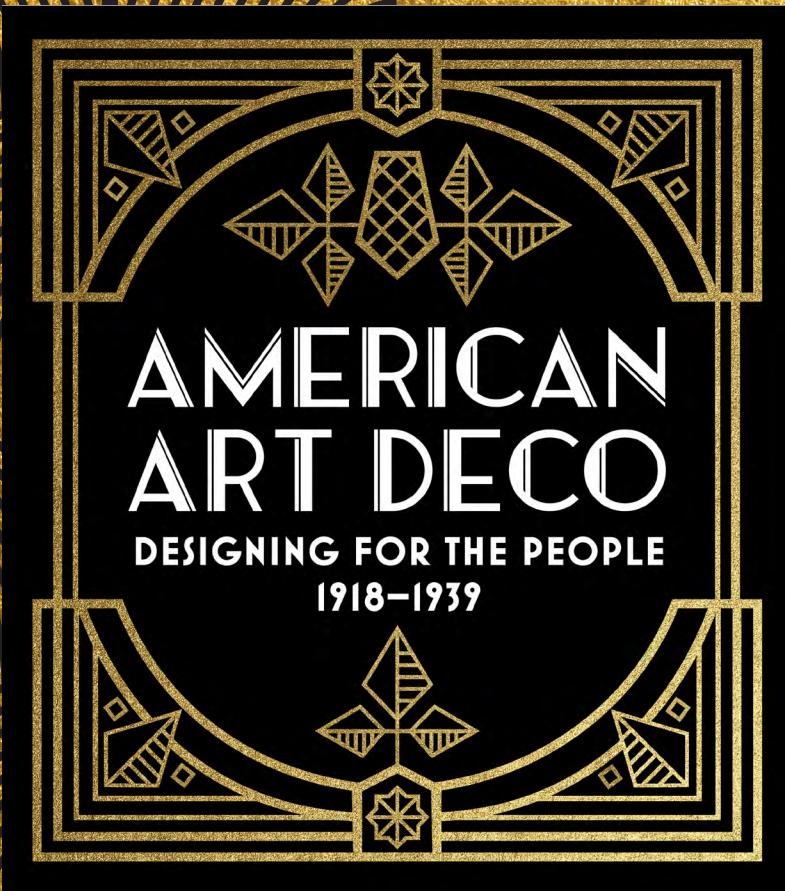


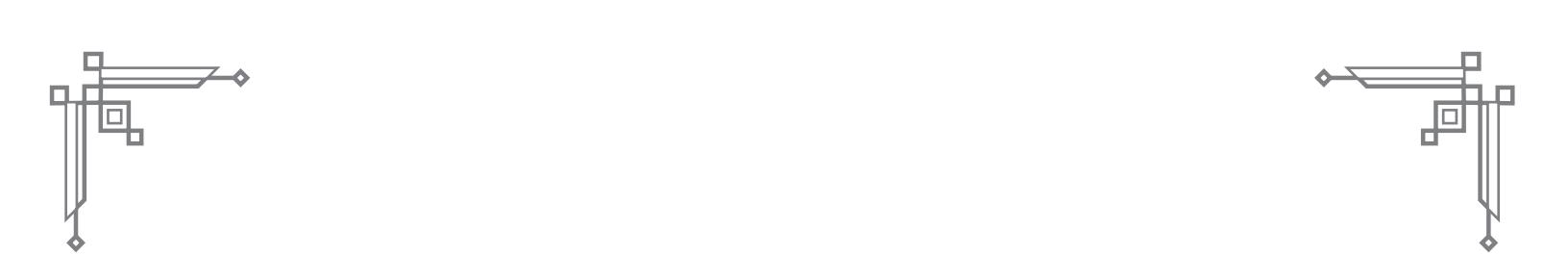
EDUCATOR GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO ART DECO



FEBRUARY 12
THROUGH
MAY 29, 2022

WICHITA ART MUSEUM



LEARNING

is at the heart of the Wichita Art Museum. We want every student and teacher to have an enriching, dynamic museum experience.

WAM **welcomes** all teachers and students to **embrace and engage** with the art museum as a **supportive** educational organization. Our goal is to create a specialized **learning environment** that enhances your classroom curriculum by building on students' curiosity, critical thinking, and visual literacy. The lessons in this guide are structured around art works featured in the exhibition. We encourage teachers to schedule a free tour of the exhibition, so students may experience the works of art in person.

Explore tour themes at the Wichita Art Museum:
wichitaartmuseum.org/visit/guided-tours



Each lesson plan is structured for a specific learning level, though all are easily adaptable for different skill levels and ages. Each lesson in this guide is aligned to state of Kansas standards. Their corresponding anchor standards are indicated at the end of each lesson.

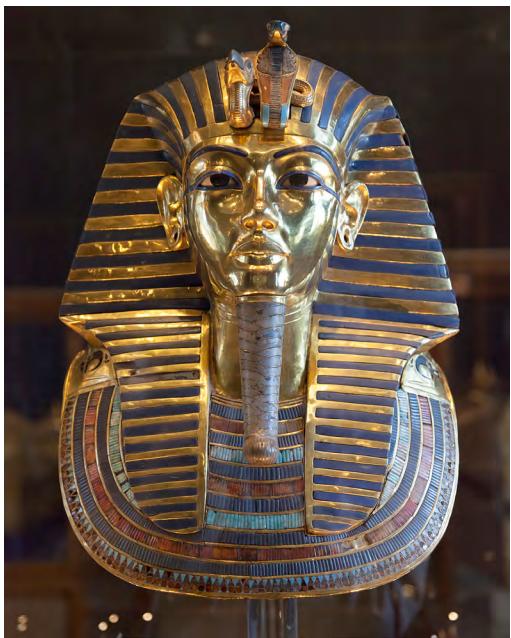
A complete list of [Kansas Visual Arts Standards](#).



Art Deco? Recall the stunning Chrysler Building completed in 1930 in New York City. Think about Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center. Nearby, don't you love the Kansas City Power and Light Building on 14th Street downtown, completed in 1931? These buildings are icons of Art Deco. See more about Art Deco [here](#).

American Art Deco: Designing for the People investigates the dynamic period when America went through a sharp economic, political, social as well as artistic transformation. From stylish decorative art objects to industrial design products, from compelling photographs to modern paintings, the range of artworks in this exhibition reflect this significant time in American history. The exhibition highlights the glamour of the 1920s, a surging economy that resulted in mass consumerism and the new age in America with women's rights, the Jazz Age, and the Harlem Renaissance. The period also spanned the devastation and escapism of the 1930s—the Great Depression and Dustbowl that affected millions of Americans.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ART DECO STYLE



Mask of Tutankhamun, 1323 B.C.E. Gold, lapis lazuli, carnelian, obsidian, turquoise, and glass paste, 21 x 15.5 x 19 inches. Egyptian Museum, Cairo. Photo by Roland Unger

Art deco is a broad term that refers to the design styles of the 1920s and 1930s, between World War I and World War II. The style affected all design aspects—from architecture to fashion. Classic characteristics of art deco design include geometry, symmetry, and angularity. With the rapidly expanding technological age, many popular art deco designs contained imagery inspired by such changes. Wheels symbolized automobile production; lightning bolts symbolized expanding electrification, and more. Art deco also drew inspiration from different art movements, from the ancient art of Egypt and Greece to modern art like cubism and constructivism. Art deco style changed once the Great Depression hit in 1929, and the Dust Bowl appeared in the early 1930s. They incorporated new, cheaper materials—like chromium and steel—and created designs that could be mass-produced. While its peak may have only lasted a few decades, the influence of Art Deco style still resonates today.



Amedeo Modigliani,
Woman's Head, 1912.
Limestone, 26 7/8 x 6 1/4 x
9 1/2 inches. Metropolitan
Museum of Art, The Mr. and
Mrs. Klaus G. Perls Collection



Terracotta oinochae (jug). 10th century–
9th century B.C.E. Earthenware,
7 7/8 inches. Metropolitan Museum of
Art, Gift of the Greek Government

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Art Deco: A highly ornate and decorative style popular in the 1920s and 1930s identified by bold outlines, symmetrical geometric forms, and linear patterns that adapted to mass production technologies and the use of new materials.

Dust Bowl: The drought-stricken southern plains region of the U.S., which suffered severe dust storms in the 1930s.

Great Depression: An era of worldwide economic decline in 1929 and lasted through the 1930s. The value of the dollar declined, and many lost their jobs.

Harlem Renaissance: During the Great Migration, many African Americans settled in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. Around the late 1910s until the mid-1930s, Harlem became the location for a explosion of African American culture that included literature, music, art, and more.

Machine Age: A period from 1880 to 1945 during which rapid development of machines aided in producing goods more efficiently.

Mass production: Using machines and assembly lines to speed up the process of making products, resulting in identical, cheaper goods.

Streamline modern: A design approach where the design takes on an industrial, aero-dynamic form, a pairing down to the essentials.



Lurelle Van Arsdale Guild, designer, Electrolux Corporation,
manufacturer, Electrolux Vacuum Cleaner (Model 30), designed 1937.
Chrome-plated steel, aluminum, vinyl, and rubber, 8 1/2 x 23 x 7 3/4
inches. Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, Denver

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Wichita Art Museum



Wichita Art Museum

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wichitaartmuseum.org/learn

For more information or questions, email
education@wichitaartmuseum.org.

MUSEUM HOURS

Closed on Monday
Tuesday–Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: Noon–5 pm