

ZOOMING

IN ON THE MACHINE AGE

Find this painting, titled *Dynamo*, by Edmund Lewandowski, in the second gallery (*Mechanical Principles*)



LOOK

Does this painting remind you of any particular object? Do you think it has a function (can it do anything)? If so, what might that be? Where might the object be located? How big or small do you think it might be?

Can you find any clues in the picture that answer these questions?

Machinery is the subject of most of the artworks in this room. Many are close-up views, sometimes cropped (focused on a small detail and eliminating the rest) and sometimes shown against a neutral background.

ASK

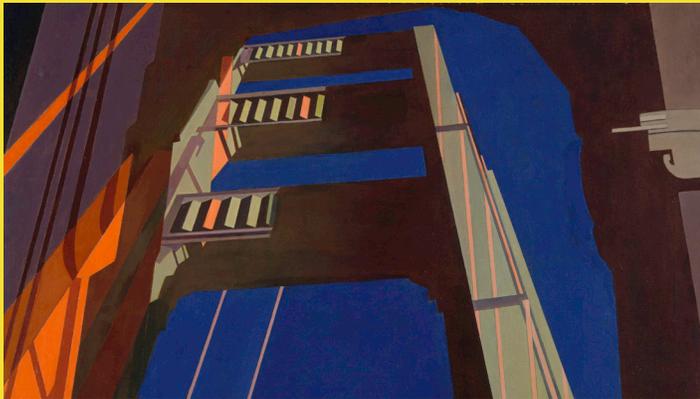
Why might an artist remove the background?

CREATE

Find another machine in this room and sketch it here. What could you add to your sketch to show the machine's size or function?



Find *Golden Gate*, by Charles Sheeler, in the Skyscraper Primitives gallery



LOOK

Compare these two images of the Golden Gate Bridge. Imagine you are taking a photograph of each of these views. Where would you have to stand? How close or far are you to the bridge? Is either view cropped?

ASK

How might you feel standing next to this big bridge in Sheeler's painting? List a couple of words to describe those feelings:

Can you find other pictures in this gallery that have a similar point of view (angle) to Sheeler's *Golden Gate*?

The works in this exhibition reflect the many changes that took place in the United States almost one hundred years ago. During this prosperous period, developments in technology meant that buildings could be built much taller, and that machines could do some of the work that people once did. Many people left farms and small towns for factory jobs in cities. For the first time, a family might have a refrigerator, radio, or washing machine in their home. This period in US history is called the Machine Age.

Have you experienced a time when there were many changes happening at once? Maybe you started at a new school, got a new brother or sister, or moved to a new home. How did you feel?