Imagine and Discuss

A Crowned Virgin Martyr (Saint Catherine of Alexandria), painted more than 700 years ago, is one example from the period of art history that inspired the Pre-Raphaelites.

Who do you think Saint Catherine was?

She's wearing . . .
She is . . .
and holding . . .
because . . .

Look and Find

The Pre-Raphaelites were also influenced by literature: poems, legends, and beautifully detailed illuminated manuscripts. The artist William Holman Hunt created a scene from English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Lady of Shalott" about a woman cursed with a task that she cannot finish. She used many colorful balls of thread for this task, and round shapes become a pattern throughout the painting. What do you think her task might have been?

Make a round window with your thumb and fingers to look more closely at this painting. Invent more round shapes and sketch patterns here.

Look for woven tapestries in the next gallery!
Listen and Sketch

The Pre-Raphaelites looked for art to reveal the “truth” of nature. The subject of this artwork, Veronica Veronese, is surrounded by objects that she might touch, hear, see, or smell.

What can you “hear” in this painting?

What do you see that might produce sound?

She is said to be in the act of creation.
What do you think she is creating?

How do you come up with new ideas?

Find and Notice

As you continue through the exhibition, look for the work by female Pre-Raphaelite artists. Female members of the group were not only models but encouraged as artists, a reflection of changing times.