Peter Paul Rubens painted dramatic stories that depicted many emotions. Look for the following paintings to explore how Rubens used bright color and the human body to create a story.

**Animals in Action**

Find the two paintings *Daniel in the Lions’ Den* and *Boar Hunt*. Look at the facial expressions and body language of the animals. Choose two animals and describe their expressions and emotions.

**Stories in Art**

Who do you think is the main person in the story? What do you see that makes you say that? If these characters could move, what do you think would happen next? Why?

Tip: Rubens used lighting, body language, and color to help our eye notice specific parts of the painting.
Posed Portrait

Find the gallery of portraits. Work with the people you are with to find a painting you would like to explore more. Take the pose of a figure you see and try to make the same expression. Imagine what they might be thinking or feeling.

Sketch: Find a favorite painting filled with action and look closely to draw a detail. Look in the foreground (front), then look in the background (back) of the painting. Do you have a favorite figure (person or animal) in the painting?


Peter Paul Rubens, *The Holy Family with Saint Elizabeth, Saint John, and a Dove* (detail), ca. 1608/1609. Oil on wood, 26 x 20 1/4 in. (66 x 51.4 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Ada Small Moore, 1955 (55.135.1)

Peter Paul Rubens, *The Tribute Money* (detail), ca. 1612. Oil on panel, 56 3/4 x 74 3/4 in. (144.1 x 189.9 cm). Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Museum purchase, M. H. de Young Trust Fund, 1944.11. Courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Peter Paul Rubens, *Young Woman with Curly Hair* (detail), ca. 1618–1620. Oil on panel, 21 x 15 3/4 in. (53.3 x 40 cm). The Armand Hammer Collection, Gift of the Armand Hammer Foundation. Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

Peter Paul Rubens, *Portrait of Philip Rubens* (detail), ca. 1610–1611. Oil on panel, 27 x 21 1/8 in. (68.6 x 53.7 cm). Detroit Institute of Art, Michigan, Gift of William E. Scripps in memory of his son, James E. Scripps II, 26.385

Peter Paul Rubens, *Portrait of Rogier Clarisse* (detail), ca. 1611. Oil on panel, 46 1/2 x 35 3/4 in. (118.1 x 90.8 cm). Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Roscoe and Margaret Oakes Collection, 53.12. Courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco