

Learn with MoMA



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Step 1 Look closely

1. What do you notice about the figures in this artwork?
2. What can you deduce about the characters based on what they are wearing?
3. What materials did the artist use to create the costumes for the characters?
4. If you can imagine a story including these characters, what might that story be?

Step 2 Learn more

Florine Stettheimer was an American painter, poet, and theatrical designer. Born in the United States, she studied in and traveled through Europe.

While in Paris in 1912 she was inspired by Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in Paris. The Ballets Russes was one of the most influential ballet companies in the early twentieth century due to its collaborations with young musicians, composers, artists, designers, and dancers. Stettheimer created the libretto, costumes, and sets for her own opera called *Orphée of the Quat-z-Arts*. The series of sketches and maquettes shows the characters in balletic poses in ornate costumes. She included fabric, beads, and other materials into her designs.

See all fifty-three designs for *Orphée of the Quat-z-Arts* [here](#).

Step 3 Activity: Design a costume for a character

Materials: paper, pencils, colored pencils or markers, fabric scraps, yarn, beads, buttons, glue.

1. Think of a character—you can choose someone from a book or movie, or you can create your own.
2. Think about the character's traits and personality.
3. How can you convey this through a costume? What pose could this character take?
4. Draw your character in costume and add three-dimensional elements with fabric, yarn, beads, or buttons.

Step 4 Share!

Share your character with a friend and describe the costume you created for them, or you can email a photo to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.



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Image: Florine Stettheimer. Costume design (*Procession: Zizim of Persia, Agnes of Bourgaueuf, the Unicorn, and Pierre d'Aubusson*) for artist's ballet *Orphée of the Quat-z-arts*. c. 1912. Oil, fabric, and beads on canvas. Gift of Miss Ettie Stettheimer. © Estate of Florine Stettheimer