

## PRE-MUSEUM VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Ask the students if anyone has heard of a Hungarian artist named Victor Vasarely and if they have been to the the Vasarely Museum in Aix-en-Provence, Óbuda or Pécs.
2. Let the students know that the collection at the museum was given as a gift by the artist himself. It is one of the collections held by the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest – Hungarian National Gallery. It has been open to the public since 1987.
3. Before passing out the text, pre-teach any words the students might need to know.
4. If you would like them to learn the words, ask them to record them as they usually do and include any activities on pronunciation you feel appropriate.
5. As the students read the texts, check for comprehension.
6. When students read the texts out loud, correct pronunciation and intonation as you deem necessary.

## A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Materials:

- sets of cards for every two students

## ORDERING THE PICTURES

Explain to the students that they will work in pairs. Their task is to put the six images in chronological order. If they are unfamiliar with Vasarely's work, then at this point they are using any other information they have learned to help them make an educated guess.

1. When the students are finished, ask them to look at their classmates' orders.
2. Ask the students if, based on what other students have done, they would like to change their order in any way.
3. If some students do change their order ask them what they changed and what inspired them to do so.
4. At this point it is not important that the order of the pictures is correct.

## MATCHING THE PICTURES WITH THE TEXTS

1. Pass out the sets of texts and ask the students to match each text with a picture.
2. When they have finished, ask them if they would like to make any changes in the order of the pictures.
3. If students made changes ask them what the changes were and what inspired their change.

## CHECKING THE ORDER

1. If none of the students have placed the first picture in the correct order, let them know this and ask them to guess which picture is the earliest one that Vasarely made.
2. When at least one student has guessed correctly, ask them to read out the text that they paired with it.
3. If the text is incorrect, let them know this and ask the students to guess which text needs to be paired with that picture.
4. Continue on in this way until the students have the correct order for both pictures and texts.

In 1927, Vasarely studies art at an art academy. He takes evening classes. The classes he takes there help him improve his drawing skills. After two years he stops and goes to a new school. It is called Műhely (Hungarian for studio).



**Victor Vasarely**  
Pécs 1906–Paris 1997  
*Nude Lying on her Stomach*  
(Nude Drawing Made at Artúr Podolini-Volkman's Free Academy), 1926

At the Műhely he also learns drawing and painting. In addition, he has classes in typography, color theory and poster design. Vasarely's teacher, Sándor Bortnyik, advises the Műhely students to get a 9-5 job. Why be a starving artist? He works in advertising while studying at the Műhely. He moves to France in 1930. From 1930-1939 he earns money in this profession.



**Victor Vasarely**  
*L'Alsacienne Biscuit Poster*  
Design, 1934

After World War II, in the summer of 1947, Vasarely travels to the island, Belle-Isle. It is off the northern coast of France. The beach has pebbles on it. They inspire a series of compositions.



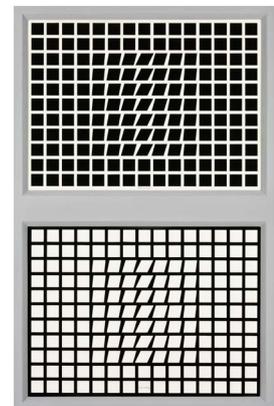
**Victor Vasarely**  
Pécs, 1906 – Párizs, 1997  
*Borr*, 1952

In 1948-1949, Vasarely travels to Gordes, a city in southern France. The city is built on a hill. He tries to draw the landscape. When he looks at the buildings, he is not sure if he sees the roof, the side of the house or the front of the house. He pulls out his notebooks from the Múhely and uses geometry, like squares and parallelograms in his compositions.



**Victor Vasarely**  
Pécs, 1906 – Párizs, 1997  
*Lon-Lan 2*, 1953

For many years Vasarely is more interested in geometry than colours. He uses black and white in most of his works of art. Movement and optical illusions are a part of his compositions.



**Victor Vasarely**  
Pécs, 1906 – Paris, 1997  
*Cinetiques / Positive and negative*, 1956

In the 1950s Vasarely creates his Visual Alphabet. He places a smaller shape, like a circle or a rhombus on a larger square. Each pair of shapes is one unit in his alphabet. He adds parallelograms, triangles and other shapes to create compositions with movement and optical illusions.



**Victor Vasarely**  
Pécs, 1906 – Paris, 1997  
*Dom-4*, 1964



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