1. **ASSESS THE ART**

   - **DURATION:** How long is the work? Do we need to see all of it?
   - **AUDIO OR SOUND:** Is audio a critical component of the work? Can we talk over the sound?
   - **CONTENT:** Is there a storyline with a clear beginning and end? Is there a dominant narrative or are the visuals “abstract”?

2. **CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT**

   - **INSTALLATION:** Is the work in a space where it will be easy to see and hear with a tour group? Is there seating?
   - **GALLERY AMBIENCE:** Is there space for your group? Will your discussion interfere with visitors already in the gallery?
   - **TOUR GROUP:** Can all of the members of your tour group participate comfortably? Is the content appropriate for all?

3. **CHOOSE A TECHNIQUE**

   - VTS • DISCOVERY • OBJECT-ORIENTED LEARNING
   - **CORE SKILLS:** ACTIVE LISTENING • PARAPHRASING
   - SCAFFOLDING/LINKING • SUMMARIZING

4. **SETTING EXPECTATIONS**

   - **HOW TO VIEW:** How long will visitors be looking? Is hearing the sound important to meaning?
   - **WHERE TO DISCUSS:** Will visitors be remaining in front of the piece for your discussion? If not, where will you go to discuss?
   - **WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** What element or theme should visitors look for?
The San José Museum of Art reflects the diverse cultures and innovative spirit of Silicon Valley. Through its exhibitions, programs, scholarship, and collections, SJMA connects the present and the past, the art of the West Coast and the world. The Museum fosters awareness of artists’ broad contributions to society and engages audiences with the art of our time and the vitality of the creative process. It is a leading showcase in the Bay Area for modern and contemporary art.

This year, its 50th anniversary, the Museum has been energized around our new strategic direction, prioritizing technology as a critical topic in our community and exploring the intersection between art and innovation.

**SJMA’S DOCENTS**

The primary link between the San José Museum of Art and the public, SJMA docents help the Museum fulfill its mission of fostering awareness, appreciation, and understanding of contemporary art. Docents engage approximately 7,500 visitors each year. They walk visitors through the galleries and lead lively, participatory discussions about selected works on view. With their open, inquiring minds and desire to learn from others, docents engage the public imagination by encouraging new ways of seeing and thinking about art. They stimulate visitors to learn for themselves—to find at the Museum something they might not discover on their own.