



## MUSEUM FROM HOME

Edition 5: Yarn Dance | 4/10/2020

### YARN DANCE

#### *Look!*

What do you see in this picture?  
Name the colors you see.

Use your arms to make the shapes  
you see.

What do the little squiggles  
around the big black shapes  
make you think of?

#### *Learn!*

Did you say that what you see in  
this painting is people dancing?  
Probably not! This artwork  
doesn't really look like anything,  
but it was inspired by dance.

Emil Bisttram visited New  
Mexico and observed special  
dances that he had never seen  
before. He tried to capture how  
it felt to watch these beautiful  
dances, and how it feels to dance  
and move your body.



Emil James Bisttram, *Indian Ceremonial*, 1959. Acrylic on board. Clara S. Peck Fund with gift of Karol and Steven Wight, 2015.14.

## *Do!*

Play with dance, line and color and create your own dance-inspired artwork. This activity will work best with caregivers playing alongside little ones. Make sure you have enough space to move around and shake out all the wiggles during the first few steps of the activity!

### Materials:

- Assorted colors and lengths of yarn
- Your favorite songs on your device
- Plain 8 ½ x 11 paper, either white or black
- Glue
- Markers and crayons

### Steps to Create Your Yarn Dance Artwork:

1. First – get inspired by your own dance moves! Have everyone choose a medium length of their favorite colored yarn, and turn on your favorite dance tunes.
2. While dancing, look at your yarn and the shapes it forms in the air. Does it create waves? Circles? Spirals? A long line? Dance to as many songs as you'd like while gathering information on how the line of your yarn moves!
3. Once you've danced your hearts out, return to your work surface and try to recreate the squiggles, spirals, straight lines, ovals and other lines and shapes you may have observed during your yarn dance. Lay them out on your paper first.
4. Once everything is arranged as you'd like it to be, glue your yarn down. Finish the artwork off with markers and crayons if you'd like.