



Watch the clip • 0:23

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/tour-intro.mp4

BEAUTIFUL THINGS • OCCIDENTAL FINE ARTS CENTER

Old things, made by real people

Our question for the whole trip: who made this,
and why does it look like that?



NOTICE AND WONDER

What do you notice?
What do you wonder?

A radio from 1933.

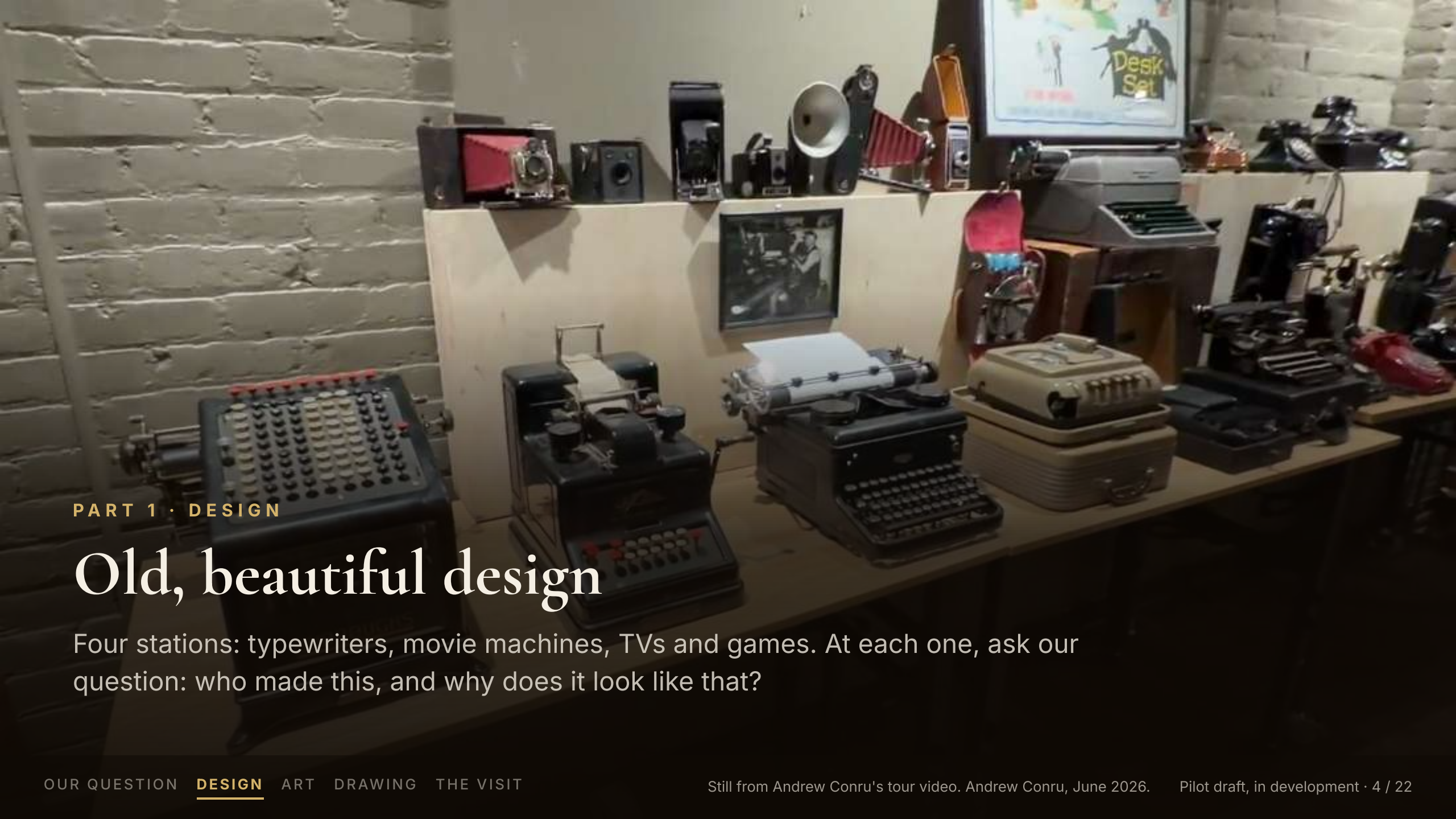
- 1 Say what you see.
- 2 Then say what you're curious about.



DESIGNED BY REAL PEOPLE

Designers are real people with names

Raymond Loewy designed that globe radio in 1933. Henry Dreyfuss's team designed this phone, the Western Electric Model 500. It was made from 1950 to 1984, and for more than thirty years it was the phone in most American homes.

A museum display of vintage typewriters and office equipment. The display is arranged on a long wooden table against a white brick wall. On the table, there are several typewriters of different colors and models, including a large black one on the left, a smaller black one in the center, and a beige one on the right. Above the typewriters, on a shelf, are various other items like a red typewriter, a black typewriter, a small framed picture, and a sign that says "Desk Set".

PART 1 · DESIGN

Old, beautiful design

Four stations: typewriters, movie machines, TVs and games. At each one, ask our question: who made this, and why does it look like that?

Real object · Corona Four portable, 1926

Watch the clip · 1:34

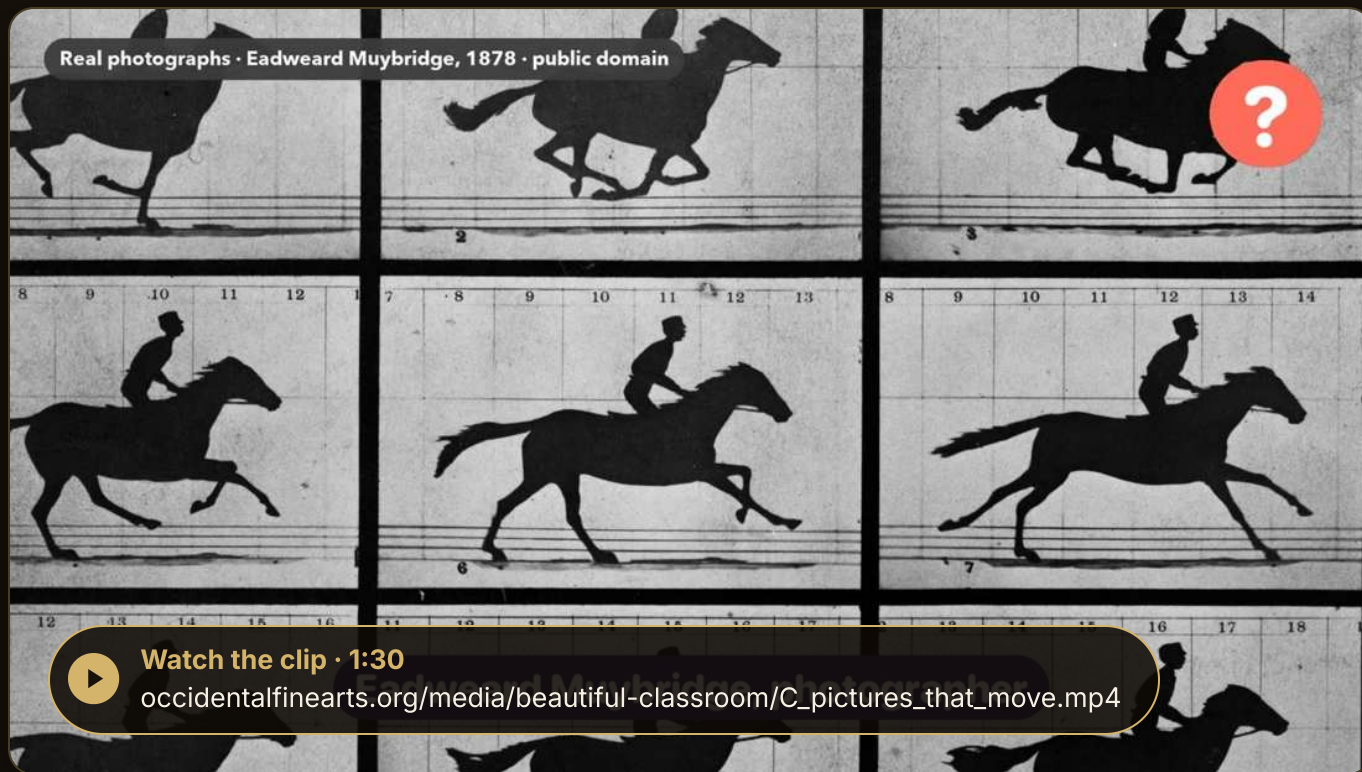
occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/A_typewriter.mp4

STATION A · TYPEWRITERS

I Am a Typewriter

- 1 Why does a typewriter have shiny chrome and glass keys?
- 2 Is there a delete key?

Video · 1:34 · captions available (press Captions)



STATION B · MOVIE MACHINES

Pictures That Move

- 1 How many pictures make one second of a movie?
- 2 At the gallery, turn the Mutoscope crank and watch.

Video · 1:30 · captions available (press Captions)

Real object · Pilot TV in a wood cabinet, about 1948



STATION C · TVS

Why so pretty?

- 1 Why would a TV be made to look like furniture?
- 2 Find the screen that is only three inches across.

Video · 1:28 · captions available (press Captions)



Watch the clip · 1:28

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/B_why_so_pretty_tv.mp4

Left: real object · Right: AI-made illustration

THEN & NOW



Watch the clip · 1:18

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/D_then_and_now.mp4

STATION D · GAMES

Then and now

- 1 Why is a game picture from 1977 made of big blocks?
- 2 Which controller is more beautiful? Why?

Video · 1:18 · captions available (press Captions)

TRY IT NOW

Draw three views

- 1 Pick something on your table.
- 2 Draw it from the front.
- 3 Draw it from the side.
- 4 Draw one close-up detail.
- 5 What did the designer do to make it look good?



Watch the clip · 0:11

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/tour-awwww.mp4

PART 2 · ART

Paintings made by real people

A whole wall of cat and dog paintings. Before cameras, people who loved their pets asked painters to remember them.



THE AWWW WALL · FUR

A Red Rose, about 1880

Horatio Henry Couldery painted so many cats that people nicknamed him Kitten Couldery.

- 1 Look at the fur. Which way do the strokes go?



THE AWWW WALL · LOOK SLOWLY

Cats, by Jules Leroy

Four kittens are making trouble.

- 1 Can you find all four?
- 2 Follow the blue yarn with your eyes.



THE AWWW WALL · A PAINTER'S TRICK

Girl with Dog, 1873

Gustave Walther painted a tiny dot of light in each of her eyes. It's called a catchlight, and it makes eyes look alive.

- 1 Cover the dot of light with your finger. What changes?

Real painting · Horatio Henry Couldery, A Red Rose, about 1880



Watch the clip · 1:49

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/E_awww_wall.mp4

THE AWWW WALL · VIDEO

The AWWW Wall

- 1 What makes painted fur look soft?
- 2 Which painting do you want to see for real?

Video · 1:49 · captions available (press Captions)



Watch the clip · 0:10

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/tour-sargent.mp4



GUESS THE SARGENT

One original, two copies

Three versions of one portrait. One is by the painter John Singer Sargent, and two are copies. Which is the original? Bring a reason.

AI-made illustration

DRAW WHAT YOU SEE



PART 3 · DRAWING

Draw what you see

Artists draw what they see, not what they think something looks like.

Video · 1:26 · captions available (press Captions)



Watch the clip · 1:26

occidentalfinearts.org/media/beautiful-classroom/F_draw_what_you_see.mp4



STEP 1 · LOOK MORE THAN YOU DRAW

Follow the edges

- 1 Put your eyes on one edge of the typewriter.
- 2 Move your eyes slowly, and let your pencil follow.
- 3 Look at the paper only now and then.
- 4 Wobbly lines are fine.



STEP 2 · FIND THE BIG SHAPES

Squint

The details disappear and the big shapes are left. This 1949 Motorola is a box with a circle inside.

- 1 Draw the box.
- 2 Then the round screen.
- 3 Then the knobs and small details.



STEP 3 · BACK DOWNSTAIRS

Draw a pet from a painting

- 1 A circle for the head, triangles for the ears.
- 2 An oval for the body.
- 3 Fur strokes that follow the way the fur grows.
- 4 A tiny dot of light in each eye. Sign it.

HOW WE VISIT

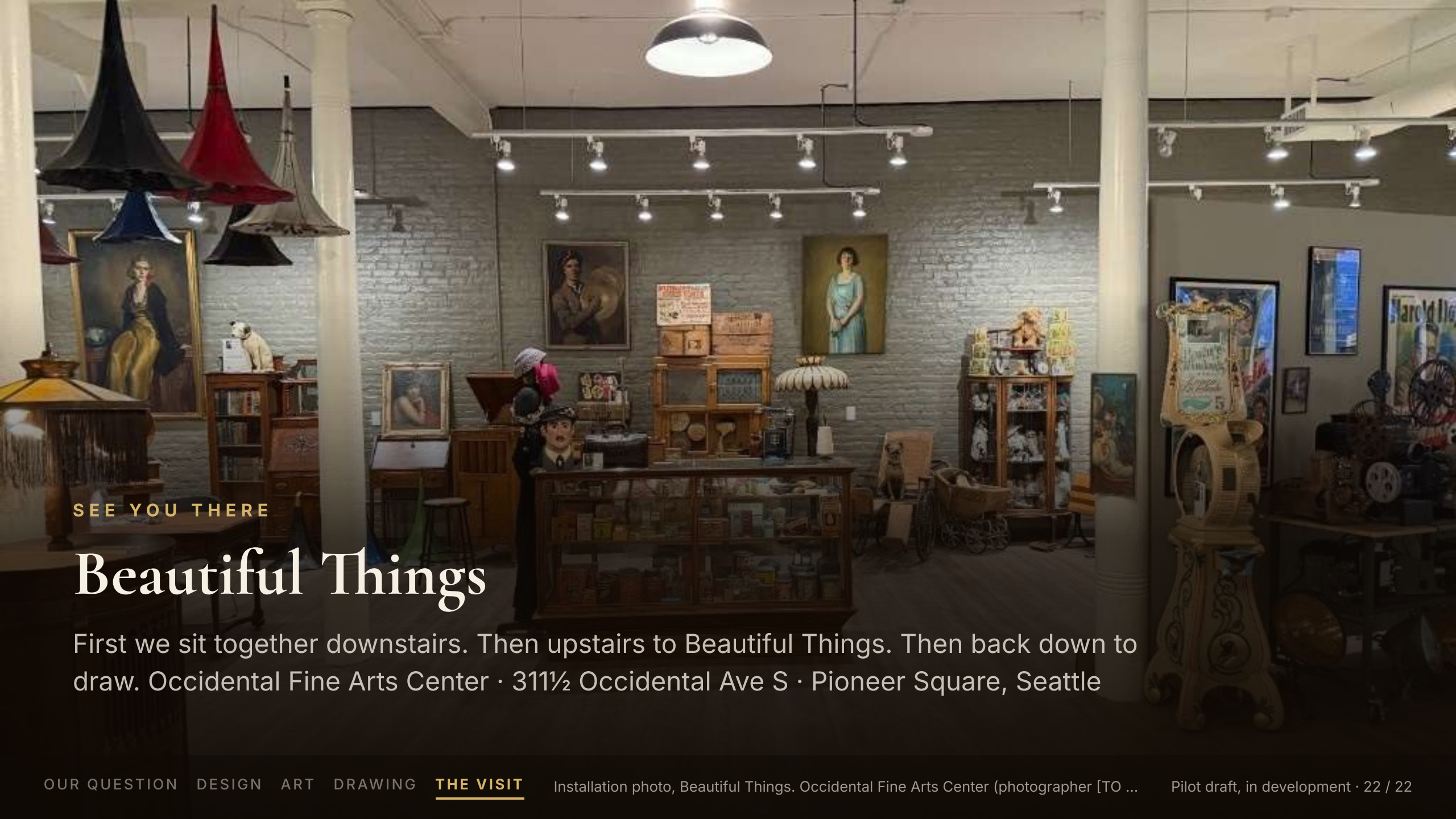
Three rules

- 1 Hands-on only where staff say. Type, crank, dial and play at the stations. Everywhere else: eyes close, hands off.
- 2 Walking feet, normal voices. Talking about what you see is the whole point.
- 3 Stay with your team. Your adult is your home base.

AFTER THE VISIT

Draw it from memory, then make it yours

- 1 From memory, draw one thing you saw at the gallery. Make it big.
- 2 Label one choice a real person made to make it beautiful.
- 3 Next to it, draw it again, redesigned for today and for someone you know.



SEE YOU THERE

Beautiful Things

First we sit together downstairs. Then upstairs to Beautiful Things. Then back down to draw. Occidental Fine Arts Center · 311½ Occidental Ave S · Pioneer Square, Seattle