



Lawrence Gipe (American, born 1962), *Apotheosis—Panel 4 from Futurama*, 1991. Oil on wood panel, 61 1/2 × 95 1/2 × 3 in. Gift of Hubert S. Bush III in honor of Hubert and Consuelo Bush Jr., 2013. SN11378

This contemporary painting shows a misty city-scape sharply contrasted to the bold black lines of construction equipment and a steel beam in the foreground. Its title, *Apotheosis*, refers to this scene as the height of the city's development. The artist's use of bold lines, separating the viewer from the city itself, makes us wonder if this moment is celebrating mankind's achievement or lamenting their detachment from the rest of the city below. We selected this work to talk about line due to this contrast set up by the artist.

A line is defined as a path created by a point moving in space. Line can vary in length, width, and direction and can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, straight, curved, thick, or thin. Artists sometimes use line to define the edges of a shape or form. Lines can also be used to move your eye around a composition. In this painting, the artist uses line to establish a clear foreground and background as well as to segment his composition.



Rosa Bonheur (French, 1822 - 1899), *Plowing in the Nivernais (Labourages nivernais)*, 1850. Oil on canvas, 52 1/2 x 102 in. Bequest of John Ringling, 1936. SN433

## LINE AND MOOD

The painting *Apotheosis* uses a bold line across the foreground to separate the viewer from the cityscape beneath. The painting below also uses a line across the

## STANDARDS:

VA.3.S.2.1

VA.68.S.2.1

VA.912.S.1.7

foreground—the clear division between the grass and the ploughed land. Does this line have the same effect of separation? Compare and contrast these two artists' use of line and the way these lines impact the feeling of the work.

# ACTIVITY

## LINE VOCABULARY

**DIRECTIONS: USE THE TABLE BELOW TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRAWING DIFFERENT TYPES OF LINES OF YOUR OWN!**

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL:**  
**SIMPLE**

Thin Lines	Thick Lines	Straight Lines	Curved Lines	Squiggly Lines
Short Lines	Long Lines	Diagonal Lines	Horizontal Lines	Vertical Lines
Crosshatched Lines	Parallel Lines	Spiral Lines	Dotted Lines	Zigzag Lines

This activity was adapted from the Elements of Art and Understanding Formal Analysis educational unit designed by the J. Paul Getty Museum, available on their website at [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)