Cherry red, lemon yellow, and sky blue seem to pop out from the posters. The bright colors make you feel excited and happy. The people and objects in the posters seem to move, even though they’re drawings on paper. Who creates such posters? The artists LeRoy Neiman and Peter Max are famous for the way their art seems to move and dance.

As a child, Leroy Neiman loved to draw. In high school, he made posters for school dances and sports events. He also found a way to earn money doing what he loved. His first job as an artist was to make posters for grocery stores that showed the meats and fruits that were for sale. The posters helped the store owners sell more food.

Peter Max is another artist whose bright colors show excitement and movement. When he was a child, his mother left art supplies of all kinds around the house. She told him to make a big mess and that she would clean it up.

Later, Max also became interested in space. He learned about the stars and planets, then he began to draw them. Even today, his works often include pictures of objects in space.

Both Neiman’s and Max’s paintings are famous for their bright colors and their energy. Their colors and their lines show how people and things move. To help them create paintings that look real, they watched people play sports and dance.

Both artists created work for the Olympic Games and the Super Bowl. Their paintings show people in the middle of actions. The athletes seem to be frozen in time.

Many of Neiman’s and Max’s paintings have been made into posters that have sold thousands of copies. Their work also hangs in museums around the world. What do you think of when you see the posters shown here? What do their bright colors and lines say to you?
Posters That Pop

Do you have a favorite sport or athlete? Imagine that you are going to make a poster to promote that sport or athlete. Write about who and what you would draw. Describe what you would put on your poster and what pictures you would use. When you’re finished planning, make the poster and hang it somewhere to show everyone which sport or athlete you like.
Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.