

Education Guide for Flashpoint - the fire show

Suggestions for Gallery Visit and Post Visit Activities

We encourage all visitors to explore a variety of media and give vision to their ideas. Please use these artistic concepts to develop your own original works to communicate your thoughts, feelings, and ideas on a wide range of subjects and issues. These suggestions should be adjusted for age appropriateness and levels of art experience. Please feel free to use and adapt them to enrich your gallery experience and as a starting point for post visit and interdisciplinary inquiry.

Objectives:

1. Recognize the difference between representational and abstract art
1. Observe that art can express feelings, thoughts, and ideas.
2. Recognize the Elements of Art (color, shape, line, texture, space, form, value) and the Principles of Design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement/rhythm, unity, variety) in the fabrication of artworks.
3. Recognize different media. (Ceramics, Fiber, Drawing and Painting, etc.)
4. Observe that Art influences and is influenced by the world it inhabits.

Prior to your visit: please refer to the Vocabulary List

1. Consider the theme of the exhibition. Define and discuss the various meanings of the word Flashpoint. Sample various types of art representing various media and learn to recognize them. Explore, observe and describe the qualities of the word air and how the various types of media reflect and visually describe the qualities of fire.
1. Bring in several works of art to discuss with your students. Discuss with your students how to observe and describe works of art by recognizing and using the Elements of Art. (color, shape, line, texture, space, form, value)
2. Consider how to observe and describe works of art by recognizing and using the Principles of Design. (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement/rhythm, unity, variety)
3. Consider and observe how the Elements of Art can help an artist to express different kinds of feelings and ideas. What feelings or ideas are communicated thru particular artwork? How do you think the artist used The Elements of Art to create specific these feelings or ideas.
4. Observe that the Principles of Design can also help an artist to visually express different kinds of feelings and ideas. How do you think the artist used the Principles of Design to create particular feelings or ideas?
5. Explore and define the qualities of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional works of art and consider the difference between them. Are there works in the exhibition that stretch this definition? Consider how the artist is using these qualities to further the theme of the works.
6. Define the terms medium and media as it relates to works of art. Define, observe, and recognize the different types of media used in the creation of artworks. Consider artworks in terms of Medium/Media, and "Mixed Media" or "Multimedia".

Vocabulary

Here are a few words and terms used in the discussion of works of art. These suggestions should be adjusted for age appropriateness and levels of art experience.

1. **The Elements of Art:** (color, shape, line, texture, space, form, value)
1. **Principles of Design:** (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement/rhythm, unity, variety)
2. **2 Dimensional Artwork:** An artwork having the dimensions of height and length only. For example a flat drawing or painting.
3. **3 Dimensional Artwork:** An artwork having the dimensions of height, length and width. It is an artwork that has volume; for example a sculpture.
4. **Medium:** The material or materials used by an artist to produce a work of art; media is the plural form.
5. **Mixed media:** This term refers to a work of visual art that combines various traditionally distinct visual art media which are combined in a single artwork. Visual Art works that combine ink and collage, or wood and glass, for example, would be considered mixed media. *There is an important distinction between "mixed media" artworks and "multimedia art"*
6. **Multimedia:** The term "multimedia art" implies a broader scope than "mixed media", combining visual art with non-visual elements (such as recorded sound or music) or with elements of other arts (such as literature, drama, dance, motion graphics, or interactivity).
7. **Representational Art:** Artworks that stress the importance of the subject matter or object as it appears in life or as a recognizable form.
8. **Abstract Art:** Abstract art can be based on a subject/object or it may have no source at all in the external world. It is an artwork that stresses the importance of the elements and principles of art and design, rather than subject matter.
9. **Kinetic Art:** Kinetic art is art from any medium that contains movement perceivable by the viewer or depends on motion for its effect.
11. **Creativity:** Creativity can be defined as the ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, or relationships to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, and interpretations.
12. **Content:** Content refers to the emotional or intellectual message of the work; the essential idea or meaning. It can refer to the work's significance or aesthetic value or to its sensory, psychological or emotional properties.

Suggested Gallery Activities

Self, Parent, or Teacher guided tour and discussion

These suggestions should be adjusted for age appropriateness and level of art experience. Take time to review the exhibition statement. Tour the gallery by stopping briefly to look at each artist's work; taking in the scope of the show. Take notice how each artist's work of art responds to the theme of "air". Please use pieces from the exhibition to inspire personal inquiry and exploration of special interests important to you.

*A Commentary Note: In art there are generally no right or wrong answers but degrees of correctness. The discussion can be more valuable and informative than achieving a correct answer.

1. Define and recognize 2 and 3 dimensional art.

- a. Prompt: Please select a 2D artwork to discuss or consider. What about this piece makes it 2D? What do you like/don't like about this piece?
- b. Prompt: Please select a 3D piece to discuss or consider. What do you like/ don't like about this piece?
- c. Prompt: Are there some works that seem to have elements of both? Can you cite examples?
- d. Prompt: Consider how the artist uses these qualities to develop their ideas.

Define and recognize the Elements of Art- (color, shape, line, texture, space, form, and value) **and the Principles of Design: (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement/rhythm, unity, and variety).**

- a. Prompt: Cite examples in the piece being considered and describe what you see.
- a. Prompt: Consider how the elements of art of principles of design are being used by the artist.

2. Discuss the different medium/media that artists used in the exhibit.

- a. Prompt: Consider how many different media do you see in the exhibit? What medium/media might you like to try?
- b. Prompt: Consider how the artist uses these qualities to develop their ideas.
- c. Prompt: How do you think the medium/media selected by the artist contributed to the message the piece conveys.

3. Define and recognize abstract and representational art.

- a. Prompt: Can you cite an example of abstract artwork? What qualities do you think defines the work as abstract?
- b. Prompt: Can you cite an example of representational art? What qualities do you think defines the work as representational?
- c. Prompt: How do you think the handling of the image/or non-image contributes to the ideas the piece conveys.

4. Select several memorable pieces to discuss. Explore how different pieces express different ideas.

- a. Prompt: Do you think the artist is expressing a specific idea about the theme? What do you think it is?
- b. Prompt: Read the exhibition label. Was it what you expected? Consider your thoughts as compared to the artist's statement regarding the piece. Does it change your experience of the piece?
- c. Prompt: Do you think the idea for the piece is from personal experience, a literary reference-story or poem, or a current issue?
- d. Prompt: Where do you think ideas come from?

5. Review the show and select a favorite piece.

- a. Prompt: What is your favorite piece? Why do you like it and who made it?
- b. Prompt: What medium does it uses and what makes it special to you?

6. Define and recognize Kinetic art.

- a. Prompt: Do you see any pieces in the exhibition that incorporates elements of kinetic art in their work? Who made it?
- b. Prompt: How does it enhance or inform the artist's ideas regarding the exhibition's theme?

Gallery Activity Sheet

Please consider and answer in writing the following questions to best of your ability.

1. Choose your favorite artwork. Who is the artist? What is the title of the piece and what medium/media does the artist use?
2. Describe what it looks like and explain why it is your favorite. What about this piece engages your curiosity?
3. Does the title or label help you to understand what the piece says about flashpoints or fire? What do you think the artist trying to say to you the viewer?
4. Does the artwork tell a story or convey a specific idea? Is there a message? How does it make you feel?
5. Are some of the pieces hard to understand? Why do you think that is?