

TEACHING THE ARTS

By Kris Wetterlund
Museum Education Consultant

At a recent Minnesota training session for K-12 art teachers learning to use the Internet as a teaching tool, one teacher described his newly wired classroom: "I have an LCD projector hooked up to two computers," he explained. "Both computers have Internet access and I use one computer to project sites with works of art that I discuss with students. A student stationed at a second computer fields questions and searches for answers on the Internet. I touch a button, the projector toggles to the second computer, and the student can show the class the site that contained the answer."

No doubt about it, technology is changing the way we teach. Teachers are no longer constrained by geography and have worldwide resources at their fingertips. For teachers interested in the arts, classroom access to works of art and the institutions that collect and care for them is becoming more and more practical.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Sante Fe, New Mexico, (www.okeeffemuseum.org) is a good example of a basic museum website. It contains an online biography of O'Keeffe and examples from the permanent collection. At the National Gallery of Art site (www.nga.gov), teachers and students can search the collection, access online teaching resources, and enjoy art activities designed just for kids. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens site (www.cummer.org) features similar depth and variety, with collection highlights, teacher lesson plans and lively and interactive experiences for kids.

There are also sites for educators that serve as "gateways" into resource areas gathered from many locations. ArtsConnectEd (www.artsconnected.org), is a partnership between The Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Walker Art Center in Minnesota that is designed especially for K-12 teachers and offers a variety of resources based on both museum collections. ArtsEdNet (www.artsednet.getty.edu), an art education website hosted by The Getty in Los Angeles, contains lesson plans, virtual galleries and exhibitions, a chat section, links and a reading room.

The Art Museum Network (www.amn.org) provides access to art museums all over the world. It's a good place to start your exploration of art museums online and to expand the use of the Internet in your classroom.



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THE CUMMER WEBSITE IN THE CLASSROOM

The lesson plans and interactive activities currently available on the museum website relate to art made in Florida and Florida history.

1. Visit the website and read the available lesson plans.
 2. Explain to students that Florida, like every other state, has unique natural and cultural resources. Ask students to visit the museum website (www.cummer.org) and go to the portion of the Education area marked "Kids." If students do not have access to the Internet in the classroom or through a school resource center, suggest that they access the Internet through the public library or at home. Tell students to participate in the interactive portion of the site. They will learn about Florida-related topics including art, tourism, and the Timucua people in a fun and exciting way.
 3. In the classroom, have students discuss what they saw and learned about Florida and Florida art through the interactive activities. You might take this further by asking students to do additional research on their own and prepare technology-based reports on special areas of interest.
 4. Implement the lesson plans downloaded from the website in the classroom.
- If you are not in the state of Florida, this activity can provide the basis for a class exploration of your own state history and related art.



RESOURCES

The following resources can extend the learning in the lesson above:

Books and Publications:

- *Florida*, The Capstone Press Geography Department
- *Travel & Learn Florida*, Sally Schofer Mathews

Online resources:

- www.ancientnative.org
(Culture and history of Florida's native people)
- www.nps.gov/timu
(Timucuan ecological and historic preserve)

Show and discuss art works and styles of the following artists:

- Winslow Homer, (1836-1910)
- Martin Johnson Heade, (1819-1904)
- Herman Herzog, (1832-1932)

Credits: Page 1, Bottom: Martin Johnson Heade, *Orchid with an Amethyst Hummingbird*, c. 1870, oil on canvas. Bequest of Ninah M. H. Cummer. Page 2, Center: (detail) Winslow Homer, *The White Rowboat*, *St. Johns River*, 1890, watercolor on paper. Bequest of Ninah M. H. Cummer. (detail) Theodor de Bry, *Meeting between René de Laudonnière and the Timucuan Chief Arbore*, 1591, engraving on paper. Gift of Miss Constance I. and Mr. Ralph H. Wark. (detail) John James Audubon, *Florida Rat (Neotoma Floridana)*, *Male, Female, and Young*, Nov. 30, 1841; pencil, watercolor and ink on paper. Museum purchase.



COMBINING ART & TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DISABLED

By Hope McMath

Director of Education at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

Art is a powerful tool for positively shaping the lives of people of all ages and abilities. Dozens of studies point to the impact of arts education on the academic and personal success of students. This is especially true for one of the largest segments of our population – individuals with disabilities. People who experience limitations due to physical or developmental disabilities can find a voice in the universal language of art.

When the arts are combined with the far-reaching impact of technology, the results can be profound. Access to technology has brought students with disabilities new tools to explore the world around them and their own creativity. The following is a short list of some of the best web-based resources available in the areas of art, education, and disability.

VSA Arts

(www.vsarts.org)

VSA Arts is an international organization that provides opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to tap into their creativity and realize the value of their own artistic abilities. This site provides lesson plans, best practices,

resources, a disability awareness guide, and online exhibitions of art created by people with disabilities. Visiting the VSA site is a must for anyone working in art, education, or disability services.

National Arts and Disability Center

(www.nadc.ucla.edu)

The NADC is dedicated to promoting full inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into the arts community. The site contains an artist directory, online gallery, resources, bibliographies, and conference information.

Deja News

(www.deja.com)

Access to online news groups and mailing lists. Discussion list topics include art therapy, art education, and disabilities.

Adaptive Technology Resource Center

(www.utoronto.ca/atrc)

Resources and information on web accessibility, distance learning, and universal design.

RESOURCES

For adaptive art supplies and technology resources:

- www.aph.org – The American Printing House for the blind offers *Art History Through Touch and Sound*, created by Art Education for the Blind. This series combines tactile drawings, Braille text, and audio into art history texts for people who are visually impaired.
- www.abledata.com – More than 24,000 adaptive products.
- www.dickblick.com/categories/specialneeds – A wide selection of adaptive art supplies and equipment.
- www.dftoys.com – Art-related books, toys, and art-making supplies.



FALL EXHIBITIONS:

Treasures to go

Delivered by the Smithsonian American Art Museum
and the Principal Financial Group

Contemporary Folk Art:

Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum
October 11, 2001 – January 20, 2002

Fall 2001 Teacher In-Service:

October 25, 4:30 – 8:30 pm

Contemporary Folk Art

Hubcaps, water faucets, spools of thread – these are art materials? Welcome to the fascinating world of contemporary folk art. This in-service will include an exhibition visit, hands-on studio activities and classroom tools. *Pre-registration required by calling Art Connections at 355-0630.*



Unidentified Artist
Bottlecap Giraffe, after 1966
Bottlecaps on painted wood with marbles and animal fur and hair
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr.
and museum purchase made possible by Ralph Cross Johnson

Learn more about exciting events at the Cummer by visiting our website at www.cummer.org. To book a tour, please call *Art Connections* at 355-0630.

RESOURCES

Visit these websites to find good art ideas and teacher lesson plans:

- www.cummer.org – Information on booking a tour. Lesson plans and background information on Florida and the Timucua. Interactive kids' section.
- www.getty.org – Contains a massive archive of lessons, curriculum ideas and art projects. Includes a scope and sequence section.
- www.metmuseum.org – Contains lesson packets and a directory of biographies of artists. Be sure to visit the *Timeline of Art History*.
- www.artsconnected.org – A huge database of art ideas, lesson plans, resources, library reference sources and works of art.
- www.nga.gov – An extensive directory of teacher resources in art museums. It also contains online lessons, art activities and entire curricula.



Malcah Zeldis
Miss Liberty Celebration, 1987
Oil on corrugated cardboard
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr.
© 1987, Malcah Zeldis

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens • 829 Riverside Avenue • Jacksonville, Florida 32204 • (904) 356-6857



Contemporary Folk Art is one of eight exhibitions in Treasures to Go, from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, touring the nation through 2002. The Principal Financial Group is a proud partner in presenting these treasures to the American people.