

SEEING AMERICA TEACHER IN-SERVICE MARCH 19, 2008

Art Works

“The museum’s inventory of American art can be contemplated in various ways. Is it suitably comprehensive and representative of the most significant phases of development and change? Are the paintings by important artists strong and distinctive examples of their work? Looked at along such customary lines, the Memorial Art Gallery’s collection certainly distinguishes itself with flying colors.

If we consider the collection from a cultural and historical perspective, however, we can use a less obvious set of criteria: How well does the ensemble reflect changes in American tastes, enthusiasms, and social concerns? Specifically, what sort of national narrative do these images, taken together, suggest? Taken on these terms, the Memorial Art Gallery’s holdings are no less worthy. Indeed, because of their particular strengths, and owing to their breadth, MAG’s American works provide an engaging window for viewing significant developments and changes in American life.”

— Michael Kammen, “Introduction” in Marjorie B. Searl, ed., *Seeing America: Paintings and Sculpture from the Collection of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester*, p. 15.

Presenters:

Marjorie Searl, *Chief Curator, Memorial Art Gallery*
Jessica Marten, *Assistant Curator, Memorial Art Gallery*
Carol S. Yost, *Assistant Curator of Education*



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

Support for the Gallery’s 2007-08 school programs is provided by Dominion, Bank of America, the Mary W. Clark Trust, and an anonymous foundation. Additional support is provided by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, Hammer Packaging, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Judson Jr., the estate of Estelle B. Goldman, and an anonymous donor for the McPherson Director of Education.

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What are the major themes or concepts you teach each year? What works of art might help you “illustrate” those ideas for your students?

Directions: Identify a concept or idea for each letter of the alphabet and find works of art that you can pair with the themes.

	Theme/Concept/Idea	Artwork	Specific reference
Ex.	<u>A</u> utomation	<i>The Pendulum</i> , 1937 (2006.4) Irene Rice Pereira	Excitement about technology and the future Machine age
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			

L			
M			
N			
O			
P			
Q			
R			
S			
T			
U			
V			
W			
X			
Y			
Z			



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Thomas Hart Benton

Boomtown, 1928

Oil on canvas

46 1/8 in. x 54 1/4 in. (117.16 cm x 137.8 cm), without frame

Marion Stratton Gould Fund, 51.1

- How many curriculum connections can you find in this image?



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Classroom Resources Available in the Teacher Resource Center of
the Memorial Art Gallery

Find a portfolio of the American art images you've seen today at this page:

http://magart.rochester.edu/Prt992*1.html

BOOKS:

Berman, Avis. *Edward Hopper's New York*. San Francisco: Pomegranate, 2005.

Bolden, Tonya. *Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004.

Craven, Wayne. *American Art: History and Culture*. Madison, WI: Brown & Benchmark, 1994.
Excellent survey written for older readers.

Eyerdam, Pamela J. *Using INTERNET Primary Sources to Teach Critical Thinking Skills in Visual Arts*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of America in the Gilded Age*. New York: Macmillan, 1974. **Part of a series of young people's books illustrating art and culture in America.**

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. *The American Eye: Eleven Artists of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1995.

Howard, Nancy Shroyer. *Jacob Lawrence: American Scenes, American Struggles*. Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, 1996. **A young people's book with classroom activities.**

Larkin, F. Daniel. *The Erie Canal: New York's Gift to the Nation: A Document-Based Teacher Resource*. Peterborough, NH: Cobblestone Publishing, 2001.

Panzer, Nora, ed. *Celebrate America in Poetry and Art*. New York: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, in association with the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1994. **The poetry, paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs create a vivid image of America's past and present.**

Rosenberg-Naparsteck, Ruth. *Young People's History of Rochester*. Rochester, NY: Rochester Public Library, 1990. **144 illustrated pages.**

Weitzman, David. *My Backyard History Book*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1975. **Projects for learning history from the objects all around you.**

Wheat, Ellen Harkins. *Jacob Lawrence: the Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Series of 1938-40*. Hampton, VA: Hampton University Museum, 1991. **Beautiful color illustrations and explanatory text written for the older reader.**

Up & Down the River: Art & Geography of the Genesee River Geneseo, NY: Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, 1977. **Photographs and paintings of western New York.**

KITS AND VIDEOCASSETTES:

Art Institute of Chicago Department of Museum Education. *African American Art*. Chicago, IL: Art Institute of Chicago, 1997. **Slides, resources and classroom lessons.**

African American Art: Past and Present. Wilton: CT: Reading & O'Reilly, 1992. **3 videocassettes and a teacher's guide.**

The American Vision: the Development of American Painting from the 18th to the early 20th Century as seen in the United States of America's National Gallery of Art. New York: Center for Learning Technologies, 1983.

Awareness Series: American Art. Washington, D.C.: Department of Education Resources, National Gallery of Art, 1998.

Changing New York: Photographs of Bernice Abbott, 1939 and Douglas Levere, 1998. New York: 8X10 Films, 1998.

Edwards, Amber. *Against the Odds: Artists of the Harlem Renaissance*. Alexandria, VA: PBS Video, 1994.

Hughes, Robert. *American Visions*. Alexandria, VA: PBS Home Video, distributed by Warner Home Video, 1997. **8 videocassettes, 60 minutes each, a chronological survey of art and American history.**

The Inquiring Eye: American Paintings. Washington, DC: The National Gallery of Art, 1992. **20 slides, 14 reproductions, text and classroom activities.**

Lance, Mary. *Artists at Work: a Film on the New Deal Art Project*. Corrales, NM: New Deal Films, 1981.

Land & Landscape: Views of America's History and Culture. Washington: National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Glenview, IL: Crystal Productions, 1996. **1 videocassette, 15 reproductions, a study guide and student workbook.**

Natural Palette: Hudson River Artists and the Land. Tucson, AZ: CRIZMAC, 1997. **1 videocassette, a teacher's guide and 10 art reproductions.**

POSTERS:

African American Art. Getty Center for Education in the Arts. Crystal Productions, 1991. **5 posters with teacher's guide.**

Art of the American West. Glenview, IL: Crystal Productions, 1994. **12 reproductions.**

Selected American Indian Artifacts. Santa Monica, CA: J. Paul Getty Trust, 1992. **5 posters and teacher's guide.**

Women Artists of the Americas. Santa Monica, CA: Getty Center for Education in the arts, 1994. **5 posters and a teacher's guide.**

WEBSITES:

The Alphabet of Art, <http://www.guidancecom.com/alphabet/>. **This site explains and illustrates the elements of visual design in sufficient detail to make the non-artist feel comfortable and informed.**

Eyes on Art: A Learning to Look Curriculum, <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/art2/index.html>. **An arts education site includes rationale and strategies for developing aesthetic experiences from online resources.**

A Guide to Building Visual Arts Lessons, http://www.getty.edu/education/for_teachers/building_lessons/. **The J. Paul Getty Museum Education department has created this guide to help teachers and curriculum developers create successful arts-focused lessons. Included are ideas for preparing lessons, a step-by-step guide for teaching visual arts for each grade level, and ideas for evaluation and assessment approaches.**

The Memorial Art Gallery, mag.rochester.edu.

Metropolitan Museum Timeline of Art History, http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/splash.htm?HomePageLink=toah_1.

Minneapolis Museum of Art, *Art in America*, www.artsmia.org/art_in_america. **From a 12th-century Native American ceramic bowl to the work of a contemporary New York artist, this unit includes classroom activities, an illustrated timeline, and postcard images for use in the activities.**

Minneapolis Institute of Art, *ArtsConnectEd*, <http://www.artsconnected.org/>.

***ArtsConnectEd* is the Minneapolis Institute of Art's comprehensive educational resource, an online database of images, information, educational tours and materials. Using the power of the Internet to stimulate new approaches to learning, the goal of *ArtsConnectEd* is to make arts education timely, engaging, interactive, and pertinent for teachers, parents, students and the general public.**

National Gallery of Art, <http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/>. **National Gallery classroom for teachers and students includes extensive interactive lessons on a wide variety of curriculum topics.**

Smithsonian National Museum of American History, *The Object of History*, <http://objectofhistory.org/>. ***The Object of History* includes images and activities to use artifacts in the classroom as they do in the museum – to make history real.**

Teachers' Guide to American Art, <http://www.thinker.org/fam/education/publications/guide-american/index.html>. **Developed by the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, this site includes works of art from colonial times to the Civil War that enhance the American history curriculum. The descriptive information about the artworks is accompanied by lesson plans that serve to enhance the 5th-grade American history curriculum.**



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