“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 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.”


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme/Concept/Idea</th>
<th>Artwork</th>
<th>Specific reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex. Automation</td>
<td><em>The Pendulum</em>, 1937 (2006.4) Irene Rice Pereira</td>
<td>Excitement about technology and the future Machine age</td>
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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.
Art Works

Choose the three works you feel are most closely aligned to your curriculum and style of teaching.

- How would you use them? Would you use them as individual works or as a group? In what ways can an individual work be used for multiple connections to your curriculum?

- What questions about the artwork would you use to engage your students and to “guide” them through the observation, inference and conclusion process?

- How can these works supplement materials you already use – textbook pictures, primary sources, works of literature, other lessons and activities you have created?
How many curriculum connections can you find in this image?

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

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SEEING AMERICA
TEACHER IN-SERVICE
MARCH 19, 2008

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:


**KITS AND VIDEOCASSETTES:**


POSTERS:


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.


The Memorial Art Gallery, mag.rochester.edu.


Minneapolis Museum of Art, Art in America, www.arts Mia.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.

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.


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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