

2016 Docent Training: Interactive Gallery Experience

Gallery Name: Fluor Gallery

Docent Name: Marci Cortese

Activity Name: "ART CART: INTERACTIVE LEARNING STATION"

Audiences: Check all that apply

X Adults X Families X School Children: Grades 4 and up X Homeschooled Students

Essential Question: How do an artist's media, tools, and techniques affect his/her work?

Common Core Standards

Not Applicable.

List Touring Techniques

Interactive questions, presenting cart objects, storytelling included personal stories by the presenter and stories pertaining to some of the CA Impressionists' lives, humor

List Gallery and/or Interactive Learning Station Artifacts/Objects

See list below.

Introduction/Theme/Purpose

Theme: To familiarize docents with items in the art cart, and to educate them about impressionism in general and specifically the CA Impressionists represented in the gallery.

Activity Description/Steps in Presenting the Activity

All items in the cart were presented.

Oil paints are mixed with linseed oil and turpentine. It can be toxic. I told the story about Guy Rose and how lead poisoning from paint caused his eye sight to fail and his hands to shake, and led to his early death. Recently water soluble oil paint has been introduced. It dries faster and is healthier to use.

Watercolor paints can be found in both liquid and solid forms. The watercolor papers shown are cold press, hot press, and yupo. The paint will sink into the cold press paper easily; the hot press will sink in some, but stays more vivid because it stays more on top; and the yupo is a new plastic material that can easily be wiped clean and stays totally on top so the paint remains very vivid.

Pastels are chalks. They are pure pigment with little binding. You do not mix them and therefore you need dozens of colors. I have hundreds. They come in hard to soft. You lay down the hard first and introduce the softest last. You lay down the darks first and work to the lightest value. The pastel papers range from velum to sandpaper to velour. You layer them.

I told some personal stories about teaching watercolor workshops. A fun story is about Edgar Whitney who was teaching in a classroom next to mine. He liked to show his students how you can get various effects by throwing paint and water; his famous example was, he spit in a section to make a spattered effect.

Sample interactive questions (2-3) for the Audience

How did the development of the camera change painting style? (Artists no longer wanted to represent their work in a sharp focus style. The camera could do that.)

What inventions allowed for plein air painting? (Paints in tubes and the French easel.)

What are the main differences between the Barbizon School and the Hudson River School? (The Barbizon School painting everyday scenes is called genre painting. It was lighter whereas the Hudson River School was heavier and tended toward nature scenes.)

How many of you have experience with painting? Oil, Watercolor, Pastel?

Conclusion/Review/Reflection

Date approved by the Education Committee: _____

Interactive Learning Station

Covers watercolors, pastels, and oil paintings (all represented in the exhibit)

Inventory

Art Supplies

- Colored pencils (36 colors)
- Brushes for oil paints (10)
- Brushes for watercolors
- Palette knives (6)
- Artists' palettes (2)
- Tubes of oil paints (12 small tubes, various colors)
- Watercolor Pelikan opaque paints (12 colors)
- Pastels (from Marci Cortese)
- Frame without canvas (1)
- Frames with canvas (6 – various sizes)
- Miniature wood easels (3)
- Gesso

Art Papers

- Watercolor papers (from Marci Cortese)
- Pastel papers (from Marci Cortese)
- Sandpaper (from Marci Cortese)
- Homemade paper (from Marci Cortese)
- Sketch pads (2)

Techniques/Tools for Analyzing Art

- Color wheel
- Magnifying glasses
- Cellophane color (frames): red, yellow, blue
- Value chart view finder (from Marci Cortese)