

Explore through the Art Door

Word Play: Expression Through Visual Art and Language Arts

Grades 3—12

These new Language Arts inspired Art Door programs will develop opportunities for students to explore our permanent collection and respond through language arts activities, including discussion, writing, and drama. Lessons are taught by trained museum educators and certified teachers in the museum galleries.



Poetry in the Nakashima Reading Room

Explore and share your experience within the Nakashima room through the medium of poetry. Students will learn about different forms of sculpture, Japanese architecture, and the philosophy of Nakashima and his inspiration from nature as part of this program. Students will create a group choral poem and write poems inspired by nature.

Creating Historical Narratives

Using paintings from the permanent collection with historical themes, students will explore the possibilities for creating historical narratives. Works by Edward Hicks, Edward Trego, and Rembrandt Peale provide starting points for written reflections.

Descriptive Writing and Landscapes

Viewing our extensive collection of landscape paintings, students will be guided to write descriptive writing pieces within the galleries. Students will consider how individual artists create unique landscapes of seasons and settings. Impressionist and contemporary landscapes will be considered as sources for students' descriptive journeys.

Dreams, Imagination, and Contemporary Art

Using images and ideas from the Michener Museum's collection of abstract and contemporary works, students will be inspired to create imaginary stories and dreams. Some artists to be included are: Helen Frankenthaler, Rob Evans, and Alan Magee.

Journal Writing and Portraits

Studying portraits in our galleries will lead to writing journal entries that capture the subjects' thoughts and feelings. Students may share their writing through improvisational drama.



General Information

All programs are scheduled during the school year and are taught by trained museum educators in our Education Room and galleries. Two-D, 3D and Gallery-only options are available for all Art Door studio art themes.

- All programs are 90 minutes in length.
- Please call ahead for program pricing.
- Please reserve an Art Door at least four weeks in advance to secure your preferred date and time.
- Pre and post-visit lessons are available at the time of registration.
- All programs listed can be tailored to fit the curriculum needs of a teacher. Please call in advance to arrange a customized lesson.
- All programs correlate with State and National Standards. Please call for details.
- Special exhibitions will be included when applicable to Art Door themes.
- Availability of lessons varies according to current exhibitions and museum construction.

Contact

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James A. Michener
Art Museum

The Art Door Program at the Michener



Inspire Your Students!

Studio Art Doors

Look into Landscape: Grades 1—8



Students will focus in depth on landscape painting by looking at the Michener’s permanent collection of Pennsylvania landscapes along with works by abstract and contemporary artists. Students will learn the variety of approaches and styles in a landscape painting. Following the gallery lesson, students will participate in a 45-minute landscape-inspired studio activity.

Basically Biographies: Grades Prek—8

From the presidents and statesmen depicted in our paintings to the artists who created the works in the galleries and sculpture gardens, there is much to learn to about the biographies of famous artists and historical figures at the Michener. Join us at the Museum to study the important details of the lives of people represented by our extensive collections. In the studio portion of the lesson, students will create a work of art based on a biographical study. Possible biographies to be explored include: James A. Michener, Edward Hicks, William Penn, Christopher Columbus, Fern Coppedge, or Paul Keene.



Image Credits: Fern I. Coppedge (1883-1951), *Back Road to Pipersville*, n.d., oil on canvas, H. 38 x W. 40 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Gift of Robert J. Lillie; Thomas Hicks (1823-1890), *Portrait of Edward Hicks*, ca. 1850-1852, oil on canvas, H. 36.125 x W. 29.125 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum. Museum purchase funded by Eleanor K. Denon, The Bella S. and Benjamin H. Garb Foundation Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gemmill, George S. Hobensack, Jr., Laurence D. Keller, William Mandel, Members of Newtown Friends Meeting, Olde Hope Antiques, Inc., Residents of Pennswood Village, Eleanor and Malcolm Polis, Ms. Leslie E. Skilton, Kingdon Swayne and Anonymous Donors

Tell Me a Story: Grades Prek—8

Storytelling and illustration can be the basis for making art and learning about art and artists. In this program, age-appropriate books and stories are incorporated into unique gallery lessons. Paintings and sculptures throughout the museum are examined and discussed in terms of the illustrative properties of the images. Student work created in the art studio or in the galleries will incorporate the idea of storytelling and illustration into the work. Book making may be part of this Art Door lesson.



Art and Nature: Grades Prek—8



Learn about how art and science travel hand in hand at the Michener Art Museum while studying great works of art.

Weather, seasons, time of day, climate and the environmental issues of today are presented in lively museum lessons. Students engage in an art making activity that enables them to incorporate their understanding and appreciation of nature into a work of art. Students may use materials from nature to create art, use themes in nature that are of concern to art and artists, and incorporate modern technology and environmental concerns into gallery discussions.

Image Credits: Edward W. Redfield (1869-1965), *The Burning of Center Bridge*, 1923, oil on canvas, H. 50.25 x W. 56.25 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Acquired with funds secured by State Senator Joe Conti, and gifts from Joseph and Anne Gardocki, and the Laurent Redfield Family

From Realism to Abstraction: Grades 1—8

Students will gain an understanding of the evolution of modern and contemporary art from the realistic images created in early American art.

Students will learn about the influence of technology on a variety of art forms. Students will learn the fundamentals of creating a sense of space in both realistic and abstract images. Students will develop skills in creating realistic art while applying them to an abstract image of their own creation. Students will engage in a lively discussion as they come to answer the age old question – “What makes it art?” Students may create action paintings, gridded compositions or abstract value drawings as part of their exploration of this Art Door theme.



Portrait Personalities: Grades 1—8



Students will focus on the depiction of people in art by studying portraits in the Michener’s permanent collection. Students will study the face and the figure through paintings and sculptures in the galleries. Role playing, storytelling and observation skills in the galleries will combine with unique portrait-making in the 45 minute studio component of the lesson.

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Image credits: Clarence Holbrook Carter (1904-2000), *Over and Above #14*, 1964, oil on canvas, H. 75 x W. 77.25 inches, Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Mari and James A. Michener, 1968; Helen Frankenthaler (b. 1928), *Lise’s Supper*, 1960, oil on unsized canvas, H. 70.5 x W. 76.25 inches, Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Mari and James A. Michener; Joseph T. Pearson Jr. (1876-1951), *The Twins: Virginia and Jane*, 1917, oil on canvas, H. 60 x W. 72 inches, James A. Michener Art Museum, Gift of Oliver Pearson;

Art Safari: Grades Prek—8



Join in a hunt for wildlife in the museum. Discover big and little animals and their habitat in the Museum’s painting and sculpture collections. Learn how animals inspire artists to create

their works. Engage in an art studio lesson based on animal themes and wildlife while learning to create realistic and imaginary animals during the 45-minute studio component of the lesson.

Special Exhibition Tours: Grades Prek—8

The Michener Art Museum hosts about twelve special exhibitions every year. These exhibitions are exciting windows into a variety of arts forms. Please check our website or call the museum’s education department for details on special exhibitions coming to the museum in fall and spring, and plan a museum lesson around an exhibition of special interest to you.



During all art doors, students will focus on three or more artists in the galleries for their lessons. Please inquire for more information.