THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE

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School Group Gallery Talks

The Clark's collections connect with many areas of study for all ages and class levels. Gallery talks can enhance student learning in general by helping students develop skills such as observation, analysis, reasoning, and appreciating perspective and ambiguity. Gallery talks also support specific areas of the curriculum; we tailor each gallery talk in collaboration with classroom teachers. Our approach involves indepth conversation around a few works of art rather than a tour-like visit with many objects from our collection. Below are some popular themes that enhance typical areas of study. We also offer themes to complement our special exhibitions.

Featured Gallery Talks

Featured Gallery Talk: Sensing Place

Sensing Place: Reflecting on Stone Hill offers a dynamic engagement with the geographic area known as Stone Hill and can be approached in many ways—culturally, philosophically, and through the lens of the natural sciences. The exhibition encourages exploration and contemplation inside and outside the galleries and includes free, child-friendly field guides. Talks are tailored for each class based on curricular connections and developmental ages. Themes include environment, flora and fauna, change over time, the relationship between humans and nature, and how different places can influence how we think and feel about ourselves and our place in the world. Sensing Place includes a postcard-making station in the gallery, as well as a "touch box" with related objects and quick activities for interested school groups.

This talk is appropriate for all ages. Available September 27 through November 10, 2016.

Featured Talk: *Photography and Discovery*

Visit the inaugural exhibition of the new Works on Paper Gallery in the Manton Research Center at the Clark and learn about the first 75 years of photography—as an art and as a science. Over the years, photographs and photographic processes have developed and changed through scientific experimentation and human creativity. Photography began as a medium that was primarily documentary but has grown to also be an important art form. *Photography and Discovery* is the first extensive installation of the Clark's collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photography. This exhibition considers three different types of images: people, places, and things, each of which help us understand the development of photographic processes and how these changes influenced the subject matter and the purpose of photography over time.

This talk is most appropriate for middle school, high school, and college students who have some experience with photography. Available November 15, 2016 through February 3, 2017.

Popular Themes

Exploring Art

Students will be introduced to a number of works in the collection and will learn how to think about and talk about art in general. First-time visitors will be introduced to basic concepts such as composition and subject matter, and will consider the dynamics of looking carefully. More experienced students can focus on more advanced concepts such as how and why different artists employ different materials and techniques or how an artist uses light. All students will consider how the arts can enrich human understanding. Suitable for all grade levels.

Art and the Language Arts

Looking at works of art offers a wonderful opportunity to think about people—the artists, the subjects in their pictures, their personal stories, and ourselves. Some works of art illustrate specific narratives, while others may offer excellent starting points for students to create their own stories. Students at any grade level can enjoy exploring different types of writing using works of art as a starting point. Many of our works of art relate to mythology and the classics, and a talk can be tailored to enhance this unit of study. Suitable for all grade levels.

Art and Society

Works of art reflect the period in which they were made. Their original social context can be used as evidence of how people lived in different places and times—the Renaissance or Early America, for example. The Clark's collection relates to the study of many different cultures and historical periods. In addition, younger grades can focus on more general themes such as families and communities and diversity. For older students, a talk can be shaped to address issues of social justice such as slavery, cultural elitism, and the status of women. Suitable for all grade levels.

French Art and Culture

Depending on their education level, students can discuss the works of art in French or in a mixture of English and French with direction from a French-speaking educator. Talks usually focus on French works from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and students will get a sense of France's central position in Western art at the time. Best suited for middle and high school grade levels.