Unit Descriptions

- VISUAL ART
- SOCIAL STUDIES
- LANGUAGE ARTS
- SCIENCE
- MATH
- SPANISH
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- PHILANTHROPY
- PSYCHOLOGY
**African Masquerade**

What is the meaning of African Art? Students will share in a discussion of African masks; how they are made and what they might represent. In what ways are these masks similar to other types of art, and what makes each work unique?

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts and Math  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT** Genuine masks from the Congo  
**ACTIVITY** Mask design on paper

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**African Textiles**

Textile cloth in Africa was made containing symbols to reveal social status and character, among other things. Students will learn the artistic process behind each of these textiles and the cultural traditions that have been handed down through tribal generations.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT** Adinkra Cloth, Mud Cloth, Kente Cloth, Aso Oke Cloth  
**ACTIVITY** Adinkra stamping on paper or design your own symbol

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**Architecture and Frank Lloyd Wright**

What is architecture? Frank Lloyd Wright’s work is used to discuss ideas of form, function, and design as well as the environment. Students explore what it means to be a designer by using Froebel Gifts, a wooden block set designed by Fredrick Froebel.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Science, Math  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT** Froebel Gifts 2–6  
**ACTIVITY** Playing and building with Froebel Gifts (wooden blocks)
Art and the American West

Discover Western art from the Figge collection. Students will explore the different artistic portrayals of Native American and First Peoples throughout American history, and what kinds of tribal art forms still exist today.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**OBJECT** Acoma Pottery, Native American power figures  
**ACTIVITY** Design your own pottery on paper

Art During World War II

What does art have to do with the Second World War? In this lesson we will explore the many topics that answer this question:

- Hitler’s rejection as a young artist  
- Degenerate vs. Acceptable Art  
- Art as therapy for Holocaust victims  
- Repatriating looted art  
- Visual imagery and propaganda

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**OBJECT** WWII post cards  
Can pair with **As Seen Through These Eyes** DVD

The Art of Glass

Learn about the history and science behind the art of blowing glass. Man-made glass dates back to the ancient Middle East around 3500 B.C., and today glass artists like Dale Chihuly, Michael Meilahn, Beth Lipman and many others have taken this art form to a whole new level.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Science  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**ACTIVITY** Coffee filter chandelier  
Can pair with **The Making of Corn Zone** – Michael Meilahn DVD

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Michael Meilahn, Nick Nebel, Corn Zone, 2007, blown glass, polyester rope and video projections with sound, purchased through an anonymous gift in honor of Thomas Gildehaus (Figge Art Museum supporter and member Board of Trustees 2003-2009, 2011-2014 and Board President 2005-2009), 2009.3.a-bb
**Art of the Islamic World**

Learn about the origins of art from the Middle East and how the term Islamic art can be misperceived among the general population. Students will explore the characteristics of pre-Islamic through contemporary Islamic art in order to better understand the ethnic perspective of the art form.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Math  
**LEVEL**  Middle school and above  
**ACTIVITY**  Geometric coloring pages for all ages or calligraphic work art for upper level  
**OBJECT**  Arabic manuscripts from the Koran

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**Artist Trading Cards**

Join the Artist Trading Card craze that is sweeping the nation! Artist trading cards are a wonderful form of self-expression; giving students limitless opportunities to create several of their own designs and then trade with one another. This exercise builds positive interaction and self-esteem among peers.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL**  Can be adapted to all age levels  
**ACTIVITY**  Create artist trading cards

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**Cave Painting and Prehistoric Art**

Cave art dates to the Upper Paleolithic Era as far back as 40,000 years ago! Students go back in time to get an understanding of why early humans would make cave art. They also get to hear a story of how kids discovered the Lascaux Cave and the art within.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL**  Can be adapted to all age levels  
**ACTIVITY**  Cave drawing on paper
Civil War Photography

Students will learn how the Civil War was regarded as the first modern war with the primary use of photography, in addition to other industries and technologies. Although not entirely new, the process was being revolutionized at this time.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL**  Middle school and above  
**OBJECT**  Three stereoscopes and hundreds of stereoviews  
**ACTIVITY**  Viewing with stereoscopes

The Wonder of Color

One of the basic fundamentals in art is understanding COLOR. Students will be introduced to color concepts like the color wheel, mixing colors and identifying color in art.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Science  
**LEVEL**  Can be adapted to all age levels  
**ACTIVITY**  Color Field drawing, color mixing, color wheel design

Day of the Dead

Explore the ancient celebration of “El Dia de Los Muertos” and the customs of this important holiday in Mexican culture. Students will learn about calaca dolls, marigolds, spirits of the ancestors and the festive events that take place each year.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Spanish  
**LEVEL**  Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT**  Paper mâché calaca dolls  
**ACTIVITY**  Paper flowers, sugar skull design on paper

Can pair with *The Mexican Celebration of The Days of the Dead: Food For the Ancestors* DVD
Egyptian Art

Leap back into the life of ancient Egypt and explore the history of pyramids, statuary and the evolution of the Valley of the Kings. Find answers to the questions: What symbolism is represented in Egyptian art? How were pyramids designed and created? What is the Egyptian Canon of Proportion and how was it used in Egyptian figure drawing?

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Math  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**OBJECT** Egyptian funerary ushabti, Egyptian relief replica, Egyptian god statues, Papyrus scrolls  
**ACTIVITY** Egyptian figure drawing according to the Egyptian Canon of Proportion

Figge Focus

This lesson is an excellent precursor for any classroom that will be making a visit to our museum. It combines an overview of the role of museums in a community, the jobs within a museum and the history of the Figge. Within the Figge, students will learn about the different collections, including our American Scene collection and understand the partnerships we have formed with other community organizations.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL** Third grade and above  
**ACTIVITY** Do-it-yourself paper model of the Figge

Folk Art – Exploring the Self-Taught Artist

How does one become an artist? Must an individual go through formal education and instruction in order to create art, or can an individual achieve artistic expression by simply acting on deep-seated inspiration? This lesson will highlight self-taught artists who, by using simple materials and personal motivation, create masterfully crafted artworks.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Math  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**ACTIVITY** Grandma Moses inspired landscape  
**OBJECT** Bottle Cap Fish by S.D. Meadows
Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?
Technically, graffiti is considered to be drawings, paintings, or other markings on surfaces in public places. This is an art form that stirs the Art vs. Vandalism debate among the public, but when done in the scope of professional artists, it has become more widely accepted. Often believed to be a relatively modern form of art, it actually dates back centuries. Some historians actually argue that the first instances of graffiti were cave paintings made by prehistoric man, and other ancient cultures, including the Greeks and the Romans, have created graffiti as well. This lesson walks the learner through the elements of street art and is followed with the opportunity to make their own work on paper.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies
**LEVEL**  Middle school and above
**ACTIVITY**  Design graffiti art on paper

Greek Architecture
Discover the art and architecture of the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. How are the temples built and why? Students will learn the mythology and legend behind the Parthenon and design their own Greek temple while using the formula for balance and proportion.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Math
**LEVEL**  Middle school and above
**OBJECT**  Parthenon frieze replica
**ACTIVITY**  Design a plan for a Greek temple
Haitian Art

Did you know the Figge holds one of the largest Haitian art collections in the world? This lesson shares the story behind the Figge's Haitian collection as well as how many self-taught Haitian artists continue to be inspired by their country's history and tradition. In addition, this lesson can include Haitian Vodou flags and the meaning behind their symbolism and artistry.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Environmental Studies  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT** Haitian metal sculptures, Haitian Vodou flags, Haitian paintings, Haitian carved wood folk art and Haitian banana leaf folk art  
**ACTIVITY** Tin foil tooling or animal scene design

Illuminated Manuscripts

In this lesson, we will explore the unique art form of the illuminated manuscript and examine the process used in making them. Through this, students will gain an understanding of why these works of art were so important during the Middle Age and explore the reasoning behind the inclusion of "demons" or "grotesques" or "monsters" in Medieval Art.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**OBJECT** Illuminated manuscript leafs dating back to the Middle Ages  
**ACTIVITY** Design and draw your own illuminated letter

Japanese Art

Starting with the tea ceremony and calligraphy, this lesson examines the influence of nature in Japanese art. It also focuses on Japanese woodblock prints, which were a big influence on some of the French Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. This lesson can also cover the tradition, craftsmanship and folklore surrounding Japanese netsuke figures.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**OBJECT** Japanese netsuke figures, Japanese tea set
Join or Die: Art of the American Revolution

What was the role of art during the American Revolution? This presentation walks through a general timeline of the revolution and examines the uses of art along the way.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies
LEVEL  Middle school and above
ACTIVITY  Create a political cartoon as a form of propaganda
OBJECT  Revolution-era map

Landmarks: Pride in Public Spaces

What makes a place easy to identify? Are there certain iconic creations that bring us to a recognizable place? These are some of the questions addressed in this lesson where students will define public spaces through artistic landmarks. Artistic designs right here in our Quad Cities community will all be explored. Students will also learn about the Sol Lewitt’s Tower sculpture on the Figge Plaza.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies, Environment
LEVEL  Third grade and above
ACTIVITY  Do-it-yourself paper model of Tower by Sol Lewitt

Maps: Marking Territory

This lesson was inspired by the Figge’s 2012 exhibition Marking Territory which featured maps from Europe’s Age of Exploration to maps of the early Americas. How has the art of map making evolved throughout history and what do our earliest maps tell us about the perception of our world hundreds of years ago? How do the answers to those questions fit into our sense of direction today?

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies
LEVEL  Middle school and above
OBJECT  Exhibition display boards
ACTIVITY  Students create memory maps on paper

Willem Blaeu, Americae Nova Tabula, 1617/1635, hand-colored copperplate engraving, H. Dee and Myrene Hoover Collection
Picturing Picasso

Pablo Picasso changed his artistic style more than any other famous artist in history. Students will learn about classical training from his artist father as a young boy in Malaga, Spain, and how he eventually traveled to Paris as a young man, leading to a world of exploration and discovery. Picasso used color, objects and abstract thinking to express himself and his opinions of life events. This legacy of expression is carried on and celebrated in the world of art today.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts
LEVEL  Third grade and above
ACTIVITY  Drawing portraits Picasso style
OBJECT  Cubist style mirror

Midwest Pride

Can you imagine a time when artists were paid by our federal and state governments to create art? This lesson brings students back to the times of the Great Depression and the study of Midwest Regional artists Grant Wood and John Bloom. These two artists created art to lift the spirits of the American people, particularly the Midwestern farmers, using imagery of landscapes and simple moments that reflect the positive memories of life during these times. Students will create their own drawing of a textured landscape.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts
LEVEL  Can be adapted to all age levels
OBJECT  John Bloom sketch and sketchbook, Farm on a Hill first ed., illustrated by Grant Wood
ACTIVITY  Drawing a textured landscape

The Nature of Isabel Bloom

Celebrate one of the Quad-Cities own legendary artists, Isabel Bloom. Students will learn that Isabel was way ahead of her time when it came to being an environmentalist. Creating all her sculptures from natural materials and found objects, Isabel was passionate about focusing her art on the simple things in life: animals, children and nature. Students will also see a demonstration of how an Isabel Bloom sculpture is made today, and how her legacy carries on in the Quad-Cities and elsewhere.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies, Environmental Studies
LEVEL  Can be adapted to all age levels
OBJECT  Isabel Bloom sculptures and demonstration kit
ACTIVITY  Nature sketching
Pop Art

What makes common everyday objects become a work of art? America's most commercialized brands became part of the art culture and iconic images were portrayed in abstract ways. In this lesson, students learn about Andy Warhol, the force behind Pop Art, and more artists who were part of the Pop Art movement that emerged from the ‘50s and ‘60’s.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts  
**LEVEL** Third grade and above  
**ACTIVITY** My favorite food drawings and writing exercise  

Can pair with *Getting to Know Series: Andy Warhol* DVD

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**Portrait of Maquoketa:**  
**The Dimensional View**

All throughout history, portraiture has been used to personify an individual as they existed within a period of time, but how does one capture the spirit of an entire community through portraiture? In 2005, artist Rose Frantzen began her journey of doing just that – painting 180 faces representing her hometown, Maquoketa, Iowa. Students will learn about Frantzen’s inspiration as well as her use of the alla-prima painting method.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**ACTIVITY** Portraits

Can pair with *Portrait of Maquoketa* DVD

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*Andy Warhol, Campbell’s Soup I, 1968, serigraph, 1977.3*

*Rose Frantzen, with engineering assistance from Chuck Morris and audio compositions by John Frantzen, Portrait of Maquoketa: The Dimensional View, 2005–2012, oil on multiple panels with audio, Museum purchase with funds contributed by: Judy Kern and Kent Whealy, James and Marcia Borel, Andrew and Debi Butler, Mark and Deborah Schwiebert, The Henry Family Foundation; Drs. Amir and Lisa Arbisser; The Beaux Arts Fund Committee; Frances Emerson and Robert McClung, J. Hunt and Diane Harris II, Chris and Mary Rayburn; Susan Qual, Barney and Sandra Barnhill, Don Doucette and Lynn Drazinski; James Havencamp, Dela and Dave Mear, Jim and Michelle Russell, Mark and Dana Wilkinson; Tara Barney, Cynthia Carlson; John and Kay Hall, Kay Runge; Rick and Nancy Seder; The Friends of the Figge and the Figge Art Museum Acquisitions Fund, 2015.1*
Quilts

Students learn about the origin of quilts and how they came to be a part of American life. Quilts are much more than a way to cover a bed; they are a way to bring communities together, become a platform for political and personal beliefs, and can tell personal life stories. Students learn the impact quilting makes in today’s world and how a quilt can be considered a masterful work of art.

CURRICULUM Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts
LEVEL Can be adapted to all age levels
OBJECT Quilt square samples
ACTIVITY Design your own story quilt square or make a quilt square using geometric shapes & patterns

Can pair with the Getting to Know Series: Faith Ringold DVD

Roman City Planning

No other ancient civilization was more progressive and accomplished than the Romans. In this lesson we will explore how the Romans planned their cities, enabling them to expand throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Students will handle Roman oil lamps that date back to the years 100–200 A.D.

CURRICULUM Visual Art, Social Studies, Math
LEVEL Middle school and above
OBJECT Roman oil lamps
ACTIVITY Design a Roman city plan

Selfies and Self-Portraits

What is a selfie? Is it a self-portrait? How are these things the same? How are they different? This presentation uses the selfie phenomenon to give students a familiar springboard into the formal analysis and interpretation of images.

CURRICULUM Visual Art, Language Arts, Social Studies
LEVEL Middle school and above
ACTIVITY Self-portrait drawing
Students Rebuild

Students Rebuild is a collaborative initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation that inspires young people to connect, learn and take collective action on critical global issues. The Figge supports Students Rebuild by taking part of a special initiative that is chosen by the organization each year. For more information: www.studentsrebuild.org

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Environmental Studies, Philanthropy  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels

Surrealism

How do you blend dream imagery with that of the real world? This lesson goes beyond the real to define and contextualize the Surrealist art movement. It focuses on the art of Joan Miro, Salvador Dali, and Rene Magritte to explore the variety and importance of the movement. Students will learn to think like the Freudian-influenced Surrealists and use their unconscious mind.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Psychology  
**LEVEL** Can be adapted to all age levels  
**ACTIVITY** Automatic drawing, exquisite corpse, collage faces

Symbols of the USA

The Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, the American Flag, the Great Seal, and our money all have important symbolism, but what is it? This presentation delves into the stories and meanings behind our great American symbols.

**CURRICULUM** Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL** Middle school and above  
**ACTIVITY** Flag design
Thinking Like Leonardo

In addition to being a master artist, Leonardo da Vinci made his mark in the areas of science, anatomy, astronomy, architecture, aviation.... the list goes on. Students will trace the life of this Renaissance man and explore the many questions and observations that were recorded in his famous notebooks as well as how his paintings carved a mark in the history of our world’s art.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Science, Math  
**LEVEL**  Middle School and above  
**OBJECT**  da Vinci invention models, da Vinci serigraph prints  
**ACTIVITY**  Illustrated notebook using mirrored-writing technique, da Vinci invention models, da Vinci serigraph prints  
Can pair with *Getting To Know Series: Leonardo da Vinci* DVD

Thomas Jefferson: Architect

President, Vice President, Secretary of State and the author of the Declaration of Independence—these are all titles that describe Thomas Jefferson. But did you know he was also an architect? He spent 40 years designing and redesigning his home at Monticello. He also designed the University of Virginia. Looking back to the Pantheon of Ancient Rome, Jefferson brought the physical forms as well as the ideas of enlightenment to the new world.

**CURRICULUM**  Visual Art, Social Studies  
**LEVEL**  Middle school and above  
**ACTIVITY**  Dream-home design
Zombies: A Mechanism of Fear from Pop Culture to Haitian Folklore

This lesson begins with the pop-culture zombies of today and traces them back to their roots in Vodou and Haitian folklore. It examines Haitian art and the influence zombies have had on Haitian artists. It also focuses on the racism and exploitation of the Haitian folklore by Hollywood in order to create the zombies we know and love today.

CURRICULUM  Visual Art, Social Studies, Language Arts, Science
LEVEL  Middle school and above
OBJECT  Haitian Vodou flags
ACTIVITY  Students create a zombie comic based on their own personal fear

Wilson Bigaud, Zonbi, 1953, oil on Masonite mounted on wood, Museum purchase: Friends of Art Acquisition Fund, 1990.41

S.T.E.A.M. Presentation

The Big Picture program is an excellent addition to any S.T.E.A.M. Festival, presenting relevant ways in which art and science function together.

Pigment of Your Imagination

This hands-on presentation gives participants an opportunity to discover the real origins of making paint. Learn about the history of paint pigment, materials and making paint as well as mixing different kinds of paint. Samples of different paint “recipes” will be available for discovering how different paints become when various pigments are combined with various bases.
Special Exhibition Lessons

The Figge continues to bring stellar exhibitions into the museum for the community to enjoy. Anytime there is something new to explore, the Figge education team is most likely to implement a relevant lesson for further understanding. Please check our current exhibition schedule and inquire about what lessons are available.

Art and Literacy Lessons
(K – 3rd grade)

The Big Picture program also offers a long list of children's literacy lessons that engage young minds in an artful way. These lessons start with a carefully-selected story read aloud in the classroom. Students are then guided through a hands-on art activity, relating art concepts with the theme of the selection.

Below is an ongoing reading list that is offered. Please contact us for newly added titles, as we continue to grow this collection.

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**DVD Based Lessons**

The Big Picture program offers 45 minute presentations based on the *Getting to Know Series* DVD sets. Lessons include a brief introduction, a viewing of the video and a follow-up activity.

The Art of Mary Cassatt  
The Art of Edgar Degas  
Thinking Like Leonardo  
Renaissance and the Art of Michelangelo  
Impressionism and the Art of Claude Monet  
Rembrandt and His Portraits  
Quilts and the Art of Faith Ringgold  
Post-Impressionism and the Art of Vincent Van Gogh  
Pop Art and the Art of Andy Warhol

**Color Concepts**  
Discovering Shape and Form  
Drawing Media and What to Expect  
Looking at Lines

**Presentation DVD'S**

In addition to Big Picture power point presentations, we offer additional DVD’s that will add value to numerous areas of study. Please contact us to discuss what is available.