

Welcome, Teachers

This is an invitation to bring your students to The Butler Institute of American Art, a free and unique resource for teachers. Not only art students, but students of history, language, the sciences, and mathematics will find lots to intrigue and entertain them as they learn. Let our knowledgeable and skilled docents design a tour specifically for your area of study and let the fun begin. Simply call our Education Department at (330)743-1711 x115 to schedule a visit.

Aside from our world-class permanent collection, a number of changing temporary exhibitions are always featured at the museum. This fall's schedule begins with the opening of three concurrent shows by contemporary masters:

Max Ginsburg: A Painting Retrospective (September 18-November 11, 2011)

This important show comes to us directly from New York, where Ginsburg has lived and worked for decades, capturing the people and scenes around him in oil paintings that are simultaneously truthful and beautiful. Like the Ashcan School artists of the early 1900s, and the Social Realists of the 1930s and '40s, Ginsburg has been inspired by the excitement and complexity of our most dynamic city. However, there is no message political or otherwise, merely an honest look at New York's inhabitants and the subtle ways in which they adapt and relate to one another.

This exhibition will launch a wide variety of discussions and writing projects for students of English and Social Studies.

Charles Hinman: GEMS (September 18-November 27, 2011)

A talented abstract painter and printmaker, Hinman may also be considered a sculptor, as he assembles variously-shaped pieces of acrylic-painted canvas into 3D jewel-like constructions. These pieces may be attached to a wall or may stand independently.

This exhibition is a new and interesting way to approach the principles of solid geometry as they illustrate how closely related art may be to architecture and engineering.

John Greenman: Digital Works (September 18-November 13, 2011)

A Georgia artist features works on paper created by utilizing digital and photographic technology. The process involves photographing landscapes, and an interpretation of those photographs through the application of the rules of composition. These works present familiar and/or unfamiliar content in a new and exciting way.

Students with an interest in computer technology will be especially fascinated.

In October, two other temporary exhibitions will open:

Susan Weil and José Betancourt: Blueprints (October 2- November 20, 2011)

For the past ten years Susan Weil and José Betancourt have worked closely together to develop ways of printing and presenting a body of artwork based on the Cyanotype, also known as the photographic "Blueprint." Their collaborative works range from personal and autobiographical to formal constructions. Printmaking is where the worlds of art and science intersect.

The "Blueprints" exhibition can be utilized as a springboard for a number of science-related discussions and projects.

Pittsburgh Pastel Artists League (October 9-November 27, 2011)

This group exhibition by a long-established artists group displays a wide variety of styles, philosophies, and techniques of the pastel painting art.

Will Barnet, Honoring a Master: Classic Prints (November 13, 2011-Jan. 29, 2012)

As an artist popular with scholars and critics as well as the public, Barnet is known for his paintings, drawings, and prints that depict the human figure and animals in casual scenes of daily life.

This exhibition focuses on Barnet's most well-known prints. His work is easy to appreciate, and will provide many interesting topics for both discussion and writing projects.

Les Barta: Photo Constructions (November 27, 2011-January 29, 2012)

Barta sees metaphors in everything. His special knack is for photographing a single scene, then chopping it into fragments and reassembling the fragments to create a new scene. A photo of a car may be reassembled as a flower garden (and vice versa). His works are always full of energy and the artist's search for the perfect composition.

American-Chinese Oil Painters Artists League (December 18, 2011-February 26, 2012)

The League's intention is to foster a creative and philosophical exchange between artists of America and China. Through an exchange program the artists share ideas and techniques. This exhibition showcases realistic oil paintings by artists of the two countries.

Social Studies teachers and English teachers will find plenty to stimulate discussions of differing artistic traditions, as well as U.S.-Chinese relations.

Georges Dyens: GENESIS: Lux ex Chaos (now through December 31)

A cutting-edge installation that has already proven popular with visitors of all ages and tastes, should not be missed. Dyens has created a wraparound work that combines painting, video, audio effects, sculpture, and holograms.

Georges Dyens' exhibition will stimulate wide-ranging discussions about humans and our environment, space exploration, and the nature of art itself.

As you can see, there is a great deal going on at the museum that can support your curriculum, and this list covers merely the *first* half of the year. So, bring your students!

We encourage you to become a member of the Butler. Aside from supporting such an important cultural institution, members receive numerous benefits and perks such as discounts on art classes and museum shop purchases.

VISIT THE BUTLERART HOMEPAGE FOR PICTURES AND LINKS TO THESE EXHIBITIONS and ARTISTS.