

March, 2010

Dear Teachers:

The spring exhibitions at The Butler Institute of American Art offer many opportunities to extend the classroom curriculum into the life of the community, as students experience how the learning that takes place in school applies to their everyday lives. A local resource, the Butler, encourages visitors to look at the visual arts and learn about their past as they discover what it means to be an American.

Dennis Marsico: Face Value Extended through December 2010

This exhibition of new work by a leading Pittsburgh-based photographer involves detailed images of world leaders on paper money from the U.S. and foreign countries. The images are interesting not only from an artistic viewpoint, but could act as student-engaging aids for the teaching of social studies and current events.

Fabric of Survival: The Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz March 7- May 23

This unique and fascinating collection of textile art, which includes needlepoint and fabric collage pictures, is the work of a Holocaust survivor. The works depict the artist's experiences under Nazi persecution. The exhibition is a must-see for students learning about world history and government. Students of home economics will gain a new appreciation of how textiles can be used to make a statement about the times in which we live. Teachers of English will find this exhibition an excellent springboard for student writing and discussion.

Beyond Cubism: Octahedronism, The Art of K .L. Schafer May 9

Science and math students will have a special appreciation for this cutting-edge show of modern sculpture. 3D is so old-fashioned. This artist adds a fourth dimension—time, using digital algorithms to alter one's perspective of the sculpture while it is in motion.

Jules Olitski: An Inside View—A Survey of Prints March 21- May 16

Art and science meet in the printmaking medium. Olitski, a versatile artist who is best-known for his lyrical abstract and color field paintings, is celebrated in this exhibition for his remarkable work as a printmaker. The works are small in scale, but show the full range of his talents as a colorist and technician. Included are prints in intaglio, woodcut, silkscreen, and lithograph. This exhibition provides a wealth of material for lessons in optics, color theory, and the many ways in which images are reproduced.

John Stobart: The Grandeur of America's Age of Sail March 28- June 13

Students of both art and history will appreciate this exhibition of paintings by one of today's foremost maritime artists. Noted for his meticulous detail, Stobart teaches us about a vanished world. The sailing ships he depicts exemplify not only the marvels of nineteenth-century engineering, but are splendid creations of grace and beauty. History teachers, take note.

The Butler Education Department encourages students and teachers to explore the special exhibitions and the permanent collection of the museum. A "unique tour" can be designed to fit curriculum needs. Docents are available to visit the classroom and prepare students for the museum experience. Call the museum 330.743.1711x 115, to receive a brochure of our school programs. Admission to the museum and all programming are free. The visual arts are an important part of education. I appreciate the opportunity of working with you as we develop a life-long interest and participation in the art museum.

Carole O'Brien
Education Director, BIAA