

art in 
action

K-8 Visual Art Lesson Program

About us

As a national nonprofit leader in visual arts curriculum, Art in Action has served over a half million students since 1982. Today we provide more than 110 outstanding lessons to 70,000 students in 500 schools and after school programs located throughout the United States. The multifaceted lessons develop students' critical-thinking skills, creative confidence, hands-on skills, visual literacy, self-esteem, and an appreciation of other cultures. Art in Action inspires and prepares the next generation of artists, engineers, and innovators.

Our exceptional arts curriculum program consists of 9 program levels (K-8), each containing twelve sequential, common core aligned, age-appropriate lessons. When you purchase a subscription, you will have website access to all the grade specific teaching tools you will need, including online training videos, printable teaching notes, discussion questions, year-round support and so much more.



We also sell materials you'll need to teach your lessons. You can purchase pre-cut, counted, and labeled program-specific art supplies needed for a year of art. We've created an easy solution for teachers and parent volunteers to implement lessons at your school. And, we offer customized training at your location, or hands-on training at our Menlo Park, CA headquarters.

When can you start? Our program is available year-round and can be purchased anytime.

Contact information: For pricing information and questions, please reach out to Jean Barbari jean@artinaction.org ☎-650.566.8339 x206 www.artinaction.org

Program K - Art Around the World

Program Summary: Program K introduces students to various colors, geometric shapes, and beings to encourage creative development. Discussion questions require them to critically think and analyze masterpieces, while also inspiring them to create their own projects. Each of the twelve lessons explores diverse subjects, whether historical or geographical.

Lesson K-1, Vincent van Gogh



Genre: Impressionist - Still Life
Project Medium: Tempera painting

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson K-2, Wassily Kandinsky



Genre: Abstraction
Project Medium: Oil pastel and wash

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson K-3, Native American Zuni



Genre: Native American Art
Project Medium: Collage mask

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson K-4, Pierre Auguste Renoir



Genre: Impressionist
Project Medium: Tempera finger-painting on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson K-5, Persian Miniature Painting



Genre: Persian Art
Project Medium: Felt tip marker, sequins, and paper

Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson K-6, Byzantine Mosaic



Genre: Byzantium
Project Medium: Paper tessera and glitter

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program K - Art Around the World

Lesson K-7, Grant Wood



Genre: American Art
Project Medium: Oil pastels and white paper

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson K-8, Yoruba Sculpture



Genre: African Sculpture
Project Medium: Clay

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson K-9 Utagawa Toyohiro



Genre: Print
Project Medium: Tempera on white and black paper

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson K-10, French Tapestry



Genre: Tapestry
Project Medium: Black and colored yarn

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson K-11, Henri Rousseau



Genre: Post-Impressionism
Project Medium: Pastels on paper

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson K-12, Piet Mondrian



Genre: Painting
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Music

Program 1 - Art Tells a Story

Program Summary: Focusing on visual narrative and emotional expression, Program 1 exposes students to abstract compositions and encourages them to analyze those art pieces critically. Students explore the creation of each art piece, during discussion questions, and interprets the artist's motivation using visual cues such as line technique, shape structure, or spatial design.

Lesson 1-1, Marc Chagall



Genre: Painting
Project Medium: Tempera and pastels on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 1-2, Banda Mask



Genre: African Art
Project Medium: Pastels and pencil on paper mask

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 1-3, Paul Klee



Genre: Expressionism, Surrealism
Project Medium: Tempera painting

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 1-4, Polynesian Art



Genre: Polynesian Art
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 1-5, Georges Seurat



Genre: Impressionism
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 1-6, Pieter Bruegel



Genre: Northern Renaissance Painting
Project Medium: Tempera and pastels on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 1 - Art Tells a Story

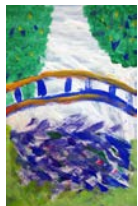
Lesson 1-7, Bill Reid



Genre: Native American Art
Project Medium: Clay sculpture

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 1-8, Claude Monet



Genre: Impressionism
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 1-9, Romare Bearden



Genre: Social Realism
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 1-10, Egyptian Stela



Genre: Egyptian Art
Project Medium: Pastels on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 1-11, Joan Miro



Genre: Surrealism
Project Medium: Chalk pastel or digital variation

Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Math

Lesson 1-12, Jackson Pollock



Genre: American Action Painting
Project Medium: Tempera paint

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Arts

Program 2 - The Artist's Vision

Program Summary: Program 2 analyzes works from different visual artists, including Picasso, Cezanne, and van Gogh, among many others. Students view each piece through the artist's eyes and discuss how the use of line, color, shape, texture, or space complements the artwork. Drawing inspiration from the lesson, students create their own compositions using similar techniques.

Lesson 2-1, Prehistoric Cave Paintings



Genre: Prehistoric Art
Project Medium: Chalk

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 2-2, Paul Klee



Genre: Abstraction
Project Medium: Assorted paper

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Math

Lesson 2-3, Li T'ang



Genre: Chinese Landscape
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 2-4, Nellie Mae Rowe



Genre: Folk Art
Project Medium: Oil pastel

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 2-5, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner



Genre: German Expressionism
Project Medium: Tempera on corrugated paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 2-6, Vincent van Gogh



Genre: Post-Impressionism
Project Medium: Fingerpaint

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Program 2 - The Artist's Vision

Lesson 2-7, Currier & Ives



Genre: American Art
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 2-8, Peter Paul Rubens



Genre: Portraiture
Project Medium: Clay

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 2-9, Paul Cezanne



Genre: Post-Impressionist
Project Medium: Oil pastel on paper or digital variation

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Math

Lesson 2-10, El Greco



Genre: Spanish Renaissance
Project Medium: Chalk pastel

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 2-11, Pablo Picasso



Genre: Cubism
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Math

Lesson 2-12, Wassily Kandinsky



Genre: Abstraction
Project Medium: Tempera paint on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Math

Program 3 - Perspective in Art

Program Summary: Program 3 encourages students to analyze patterns, textures and designs in different compositions. They learn about various elements that create perspective and discuss why those perspectives are important in an art piece. During group discussions, students describe their own perspective and predict what will happen in the masterpiece.

Lesson 3-1, Johannes Vermeer



Genre: Dutch Genre Painting
Project Medium: Tempera painting

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 3-2, African Textiles



Genre: African Textile
Project Medium: Paper collage, tempera paint

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 3-3, Vincent van Gogh



Genre: Post-Impressionist Landscape
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 3-4, Albert Bierstadt



Genre: American Landscape
Project Medium: Oil pastel with graded wash

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 3-5, Joan Miró



Genre: Surrealism
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 3-6, Domenico Ghirlandaio

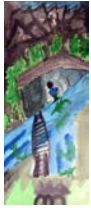


Genre: Italian Renaissance
Project Medium: Chalk pastel on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 3 - Perspective in Art

Lesson 3-7, Wang Yuan-Ch'i



Genre: Chinese Artist
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 3-8, Maurice Utrillo



Genre: French painting
Project Medium: Oil pastel

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 3-9, Cheyenne Shield



Genre: Native American Art
Project Medium: Clay and beads

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 3-10, Thomas Cole



Genre: American landscape painting
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 3-11, Edgar Degas



Genre: Impressionism
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper

Length: 75-90 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 3-12, Georges Braque



Genre: Cubism
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Program 4 - Modern Art

Program Summary: Modern Art, Program 4, examines art from the late 19th to early 20th century and teaches students how various artists create unique works in a modern era. Each of the twelve lessons inspire them to design their own projects by blending modern elements with techniques such as scale, balance, form, or perspective.

Lesson 4-1, Salvador Dali



Genre: Surrealism
Project Medium: Oil and wash

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 4-2, George Bellows



Genre: American realism
Project Medium: Wire sculpting

Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Social studies

Lesson 4-3, Richard Diebenkorn



Genre: American painting
Project Medium: Watercolor

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 4-4, Pablo Picasso



Genre: Cubism
Project Medium: Tempera paint

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 4-5, Charles Demuth



Genre: American painting
Project Medium: Oil pastel

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Math

Lesson 4-6, Henri Matisse



Genre: French painting
Project Medium: Collage

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Music

Program 4 - Modern Art

Lesson 4-7, Franz Marc



Genre: Expressionism
Project Medium: Chalk pastel

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 4-8, Auguste Rodin



Genre: French Sculpture
Project Medium: Clay figure

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Art

Lesson 4-9, Diego Rivera



Genre: Mexican Muralism
Project Medium: Mural

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 4-10, Georgia O'Keeffe



Genre: American Painting
Project Medium: Oil pastel

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 4-11, Wayne Thiebaud



Genre: American Modernism
Project Medium: Tempera

Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 4-12, Victor Vasarely



Genre: Modernism
Project Medium: Watercolor

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Math

Program 5 - American Art

Program Summary: Program 5 integrates with various aspects of Social Studies and teaches students American Art. Lessons include works from many notable artists like Winslow Homer, Faith Ringgold, and William Harnett. Projects range from modern popular art to traditional American portraiture.

Lesson 5-1, Winslow Homer



Genre: Realism
Project Medium: Oil pastel

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 5-2, Faith Ringgold



Genre: American Quilting
Project Medium: Assorted paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 5-3, Copley and Stuart



Genre: Portraiture
Project Medium: Charcoal and paper

Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 5-4, William Harnett



Genre: Irish American Painter
Project Medium: Tempera paint

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 5-5, Andy Warhol



Genre: Pop Art
Project Medium: Tempera on assorted paper

Length: 75-90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 5-6, Claes Oldenburg



Genre: Pop Art
Project Medium: Clay

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 5 - American Art

Lesson 5-7, Colonia Limner Paintings



Genre: Colonial painting
Project Medium: Tempera paint

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 5-8, William H. Bradley



Genre: American Art
Nouveau Illustrator
Project Medium: Marker and pencil on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 5-9, Frederic Remington



Genre: American Painter
Project Medium: Oil pastels and watercolor on paper

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 5-10, Jacob Lawrence



Genre: Expressionism
Project Medium: Colored pen on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 5-11, John James Audubon



Genre: American Painter
Project Medium: Chalk pastels on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 5-12, Helen Frankenthaler



Genre: Abstract Expressionist
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Music

Program 6 - Ancient Art

Program Summary: Program 6 explores diverse art pieces from various cultures in ancient history; delving underneath the surface and examining works for symbolism and meaning. Whether its Egyptian, Asian, Greek or Roman, students learn creative techniques to create visual metaphors and express traditional sentiment within their projects.

Lesson 6-1, André Derain



Genre: Fauvist
Project Medium: Tempera
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 6-2, Neo-Babylonian



Genre: Ancient Art
Project Medium: Chalk pastel on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-3, Egyptian Cartonnage



Genre: Ancient Art
Project Medium: White clay
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-4, Egyptian Cup



Genre: Ancient Art
Project Medium: Markers
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-5, Xia Ch'ang



Genre: Chinese Brush Painting
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 6-6, Chinese Textile



Genre: Asian Art
Project Medium: Oil pastel and watercolor
Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 6 - Ancient Art

Lesson 6-7, Exekias



Genre: Ancient Greek
Project Medium: Scratch art
Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 6-8, The Parthenon



Genre: Ancient Architecture
Project Medium: Sculpting compounded on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-9, Marc Chagall



Genre: Expressionism
Project Medium: Color markers on transparency
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-10, Jacques Louis David



Genre: Neoclassical
Project Medium: Color markers on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 6-11, Fayum Portrait



Genre: Realism and Ancient Art
Project Medium: Charcoal and chalk pastel on paper
Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 6-12, Sonia Delaunay



Genre: Minimalism
Project Medium: Tempera
Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 7 - Renaissance Art

Program Summary: Highlighting a period of cultural expression and artistic advancement, Program 7 introduces students to artworks of the Renaissance era. They study works with various visual techniques, such as shading, perspective, or scale, and discuss the societal and cultural impact of each masterpiece.

Lesson 7-1, Jan van Eyck



Genre: Northern Renaissance
Project Medium: Tempera on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 7-2, Celtic Manuscript



Genre: Illuminated Letters
Project Medium: Calligraphy

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

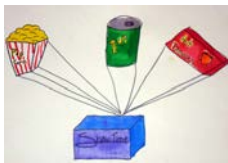
Lesson 7-3, Ambrogio Lorenzetti



Genre: Renaissance
Project Medium: Tempera paint

Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 7-4, Paolo Uccello



Genre: Renaissance
Project Medium: Pen and watercolor on paper

Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 7-5, Sandro Botticelli



Genre: Renaissance
Project Medium: Charcoal on paper

Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 7-6, Islamic Design



Genre: Islamic Art
Project Medium: Paper patterns

Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 7 - Renaissance Art

Lesson 7-7, Yoruba Carving



Genre: African Carving
Project Medium: Clay
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 7-8, Leonardo da Vinci



Genre: Italian Renaissance
Project Medium: Pastel on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Science

Lesson 7-9, Raphael Sanzio



Genre: Italian Renaissance
Project Medium: Drawing
Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 7-10, Michelangelo Buonarroti



Genre: High Renaissance
Project Medium: Charcoal on paper
Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 7-11, Katsushika Hokusai



Genre: Japanese Woodcut
Project Medium: Watercolor foam print on paper
Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 7-12, Wassily Kandinsky



Genre: Abstractionism
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper
Length: 45 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Program 8 - Art and the American Experience

Program Summary: Transitioning to the American art experience, Program 8 includes pieces of popular art, mixed multi-media, photography, and realism. Each of the twelve lessons underline creative elements that evolved within American history. Students describe the role of creativity in American society and discuss the cultural impact of postmodern art.

Lesson 8-1, Roy Lichtenstein



Genre: Pop Art
Project Medium: Marker pen on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 8-2, Flo Oy Wong



Genre: Mixed media
Project Medium: Mixed media on fabric
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 8-3, Edward Hopper



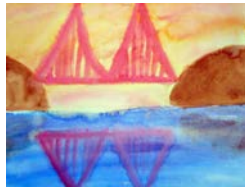
Genre: American Realism
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper
Length: 75 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 8-4, Dorothea Lange



Genre: Photography
Project Medium: Graphite on paper
Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 8-5, George Caleb Bingham



Genre: Luminism
Project Medium: Watercolor on paper
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 8-6, Mimbres Pottery



Genre: Pottery
Project Medium: Pottery
Length: 90 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Program 8 - Art and the American Experience

Lesson 8-7, Grant Wood



Genre: American Painting
Project Medium: Chalk pastel
Length: 45-60 minutes
Integration: Language Arts

Lesson 8-8, Robert Rauschenberg



Genre: Abstract
Project Medium: Tempera paint and oil pastels on paper
Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 8-9, Thomas Hart Benton



Genre: Realism
Project Medium: Watercolor and oil pastels on paper
Length: 60-75 minutes
Integration: Music

Lesson 8-10, Judy Chicago



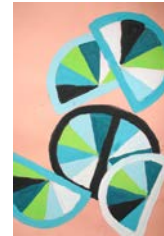
Genre: Mixed Media Art
Project Medium: Mixed media
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 8-11, George Segal



Genre: Pop Art
Project Medium: Foil
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Social Studies

Lesson 8-12, Frank Stella



Genre: Minimalist
Project Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Length: 60 minutes
Integration: Mathematics