

Saturday for Educators 2009-10

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art proudly offers the popular program, *Saturday for Educators*, four times for the 2009-10 school year. Educators can attend this program to learn about the Ringling permanent collection and special exhibitions, network with other area educators, and refresh their creative spirit. In-service professional development hours are available for each program. Sessions are designed around the theme of community, though content-based activities will be provided. All programs are 9:00 a.m. – noon, and include a lecture, gallery experience, and hands-on activity or lesson plan tied to the Sunshine State Standards. The cost of the program is \$15, which will include all materials. Pre-registration is necessary. (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

September 26, 2009 – Character and Community (Life in the Middle)

Focusing on character education, this partnership between the Asolo Repertory Theater and The Ringling Museum supports the Asolo Repertory Theatre's production of *Life in the Middle*, a special play written to address personal development and learning for students. Aimed at teachers bringing students to the play and accompanying Museum tour, the curriculum has been designed for a wide variety of classroom applications beyond this production.

Curriculum Connections: Visual Arts, Cultural Studies, Language Arts, Civics and Government, Theatre, Mythology, Character Education, Health Education, Social Studies

In an unprecedented departure from its usual programming, the Asolo Repertory Theatre is developing and producing a play based on the concerns and social life of middle school students. Centered on interviews with students and those important to their lives, a play will be created using both myth and reality, reflecting the pressures and potentialities of this unique age group.

Building on questions of identity, community and character raised in the play, museum educators have constructed a gallery tour using works from the Museum's permanent collection that will amplify ideas presented in the play. Teachers of students at all levels will learn how to use the visual arts and the Ringling collections to spur discussion and development in their students.



Pictured: Nicolas Tournier (1590 – 1660), *Tobias Taking Leave of His Parents*, 17th century, SN110

October 24, 2009 – Venice in the Age of Canaletto

Focusing on curriculum connections with the special exhibition, *Venice in the Age of Canaletto*.

Curriculum Connections: History, Geography, Visual Arts, Cultural Studies, Decorative Arts, Language Arts, Civics and Government, Social Studies, Economics



Pictured: Giovanni Antonio Canal, called Canaletto (1697 – 1768), *The Riva Degli Schiavoni Towards the East*, 1760s, SN187

Venice of the eighteenth century may at first seem long ago and far away, but there is much to learn from its rich cultural milieu that is applicable to today's globalized world. A unique city-state, Venice was at the center of a dynamic trading system that brought goods and ideas from all over the world to its vibrant location. At the crossroads of cultures including Europe, Asia and Africa, Venice expanded the idea of community in an early example of globalization. Using its economic reach, Venice reinvented itself based on this wide variety of international influences.

With an emphasis on beauty and luxury, Venice provides a "wealth" of resources to enhance teaching and learning. Beginning with a look at how Venetian artists defined their environment, we will compare the conception and depiction of Venice and our own modern environment, examining how the familiar and the foreign contribute to society. Lifestyles, maritime trade, cultural diffusion and concepts of citizenship are some of the topics that will be explored in making curriculum connections.

January 23, 2010 – Celebrate Circus!

In conjunction with the special exhibition on the circus and its created community, taking advantage of our unique local history.

Curriculum Connections: Visual Arts, History, Character Education, Language Arts, Social Studies, Cultural Studies

With the exciting contributions of guest performers and lecturers, this workshop will focus on the unique position of the Sarasota community as the quintessential “circus city,” the home of the great American circus tradition. Examining the local, regional and national legacies of the circus and its unique cultural community, this program will explore the many ways the history of the circus can be used to infuse the curriculum with a range of important learning objectives, addressing a variety of grade levels, subject matter and learning standards.

Using the circus as a means to capture interest, we will use elements of the circus to investigate the use of memorabilia and musical performance to focus lessons and learning. Defining ourselves as the “Home of the American Circus” meant that our local community had national and international reach in its influence and connections. The circus can be used to highlight how these connections are created and continued, emphasizing both the unique aspects of the circus community as well as its universal reach.



Pictured: Frederick W. Glasier, (1866-1950) *Clowns, Sparks Shows*, 1922, Collection of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Negative Number 331

February 20, 2010 – In Search of Rockwell’s America

Focusing on comparative views of American culture, using original art of Norman Rockwell and photographs of Kevin Rivoli, we will explore perspectives on classic America and the changing nature of the nation.

Curriculum Connections: History, Geography, Character Education, Language Arts, Social Studies, Visual Arts, Cultural Studies



Pictured: Norman Rockwell (1894 – 1978), *The Runaway* (Saturday Evening Post Cover), Sept. 15, 1958

Norman Rockwell’s scenes have often been characterized as iconic Americana, picturing the way the country used to be. This engenders a certain nostalgia for “the good old days” on the part of older people, and bewilderment on the part of youth, who can’t imagine a time without cell phones, texting, MTV or MP3s. Yet Rockwell’s America is more than a simplistic view of the way things were, or should have been. His work has been brought to the present by Kevin Rivoli, an award-winning photojournalist, who has matched his own documentary photographs taken around the country with original art of Norman Rockwell, creating a visual conversation regarding the essence of America, and the concept of cultural continuity.

The program will focus on the intersections of past and present, the power of imagination and creativity, and art in the service of social causes. Explore history, culture and representation in a complex set of comparisons that reveal underlying cultural characteristics.