

Art of Looking

Grades 5 and 6 Art Program

Art of Looking is a grant-funded program for fifth and sixth graders in the School District of Philadelphia. Participating classes receive a field trip and busing to the Barnes Foundation and a pre- and post-visit outreach lesson at their school.

This program is based on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) principles, using project-based learning and hands-on activities to explore art at the Barnes. The fifth-grade program focuses on using scientific investigation to answer questions about an artwork, including how to identify what materials an artwork is made of. The sixth-grade program asks students to think mathematically about artworks by examining the geometry used to create compositions. Students are encouraged to connect what they discover about an artwork to its subject, context, and meaning.



Pre-K–12 Outreach Program Goals:

- To make students of all races and backgrounds feel comfortable and confident in a museum setting.
- To build visual literacy skills.
- To foreground the use of art as an expressive tool.
- To help teachers integrate art into the curriculum.

Grade 5 Program Goals:

By the end of Art of Looking, students should be able to:

- Analyze a work of art using art vocabulary including light, line, color, space, and shape.
- Use the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning format of scientific investigation to explore the materials used to make artworks.
- Create claims about meaning in artworks supported by observable evidence as well as visual, oral, or written evidence.

Grade 6 Program Goals:

By the end of Art of Looking, students should be able to:

- Analyze a work of art using art vocabulary including line, space, and shape.
- Use math vocabulary including symmetry and asymmetry and coordinate planes.
- Use the math procedure of plotting points on coordinate planes.
- Compare and contrast the composition (including lines, shapes, and patterns) in two or more artworks.

Art of Looking addresses the following curriculum standards:

Next Generation Science Standards: Science and Engineering Practices

- Practice #3 - Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Practice #6 - Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Practice #7 - Engaging in Argument from Evidence

Next Generation Science Standards: Crosscutting Concepts

- Concept #1 - Patterns: Observed patterns of forms and events guide organization and classification, and they prompt questions about relationships and the factors that influence them.

National Visual Arts Standards

- VA:Re8.1 Interpret art by analyzing characteristics of form and structure, contextual information, subject matter, visual elements, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.
- VA:Cr2.1 Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches.

The Grade 6 program also addresses:

Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.Math.Content.6.G.A.3 Draw polygons in the coordinate plane given coordinates for the vertices; use coordinates to find the length of a side joining points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate. Apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.
- CCSS.Math.Practice.MP1 Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- CCSS.Math.Practice.MP2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- CCSS.Math.Practice.MP4 Model with mathematics.

About the Barnes Foundation

The Barnes was established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 as a teaching institution. The Foundation's art collection contains paintings, sculptures, furniture, textiles, and jewelry from around the world—Africa, China, France, Pennsylvania, the American Southwest, and beyond. In his gallery, Dr. Barnes arranged works of art into groups, which he called “ensembles,” based on visual similarities. Each ensemble was designed to reveal new ways of looking at art. In May 2012, the Barnes moved from Merion, PA, to Philadelphia, making the art more accessible to students and visitors from all over the world.