



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Program Notes

Program Title: The Art of Art Projects: Hands-on Activities for Kids of All Ages with Interdisciplinary Connections
Location: San Jose Museum of Art
Date: June 13, 2001
Presenters: Val DeLang, Director of Education, San Jose Museum of Art and SJMA Faculty Artists

Program Overview:

1) This program addresses the following question: How do I know if this art activity is appropriate or engaging for the audience I'm designing this for?

By activities, we mean ones suitable for museum programs, such as school visits or festival-type programs. Not long-term art programs. These are quick hands-on ways to introduce visitors to ideas presented in an exhibition or gallery.

2) When hiring an artist to conduct an art activity you should discuss with them the following:

- ◆ Determine who the audience is
- ◆ Choose 1 or 2 concepts in the exhibition you would like to concentrate on. Keep it simple! This can apply to any subject area-history, science, art, etc...
- ◆ Identify the skills that you want the audience to gain from the activity.
- ◆ Request an outline or lesson plan for your revision prior to the program date
- ◆ Note: Often people are afraid of infringing on the artist's creative process or limiting them. But actually you are giving them something interesting to think about and work with. Most often artists are intrigued with a concept or idea that stimulates their art.

3) Characteristics of a Quality, Interdisciplinary Art Activity

- ◆ Helps to clarify a particular concept or subject matter and/or enhance certain skills.
- ◆ Makes connections
- ◆ Instigates creative problem solving
- ◆ Stimulates multi-sensory perceptions
- ◆ Portrays complex concepts in simple ways

- ◆ Leads learners to think beyond what they already know

Activities:

Participants spent 10 minutes each in two exhibitions: *Jo Whaley: Natura Morta* and *Tony Delap: A Retrospective* at SJMA-discussing interdisciplinary themes in the exhibitions that activities could be developed around.

After returning to classroom groups did activities with SJMA Faculty Artists related to exhibitions.

Handouts / Recommended Reading: