



ART DOCENTS OF LOS GATOS

February Canvas

"Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change—it can not only move us, it makes us move.
Ossie Davis, Actor (1917-)

The Mission of the Art Docents is to expand a child's educational and cultural experiences in order to foster the development of more flexible, innovative and creative individuals. This is accomplished through ongoing programs and activities in art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art techniques.

Kindergarten Students are introduced to the basic Elements of Art. Throughout the year, they learn about Color, Shape, Line, Texture, Value, and Form by studying art prints based on subject categories. In November we kicked off the year by exploring the wonderfully expressive compositions of Henri Matisse. In January we rode the rails and pointed out a variety of Art Elements found in Train prints. This month we'll discuss the use and types of Lines found in images of Boats. The children love these sessions and demonstrate great enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity.

Grade 1 The first-grade curriculum focuses on Subject Matter and the Principles of Design. Beginning in November, students were introduced to the bold and colorful works of Mexican painter and muralist Diego Rivera. They studied Still Life Compositions and created their own Still Life drawings. This month visiting docents will join first-graders in a study of Contrast and Emphasis in artwork by viewing and discussing Genre paintings that depict scenes of everyday life.

Grade 2 In second grade, Docents and students explore how various artists use the Elements of Art to achieve a variety of goals. The use of Color and Value was discussed in November. Line, Shape and Form was compared and contrasted in January. This month we look at "los gatos" or cats, as the subject matter to explore how artists describe and convey Texture, Touch and Mood in their art.

Grade 3 Third-grade students explore significant art movements and leading artists in Europe and North America during the late 18th through 21st centuries. In November we introduced the works of Swedish sculptor Claes Oldenburg and his use of texture in his massive sculptural pieces. In January we studied Impressionist paintings and focused on how the sense of Space is conveyed by different artists. This month we'll study the Post-Impressionists and help students define and understand the use of Value in a Composition.

Grade 4 The fourth-grade Docent curriculum is aligned with the grade's social studies curriculum in the study of California history. We started in November with Native California Art and in January we were inspired by magnificent California Landscapes as depicted by some very bold landscape artists. This month we'll look at Architecture in California from simple Mission-style buildings to ultra-modern new millennium masterpieces. We'll frame this discussion around the use of Line in describing architectural forms.

Grade 5 Our fifth grade students spend the year studying American Art from the 1700's through the present day. The program is more intense at this grade level as students are asked to compare and contrast pairs of artwork during each lesson. We began with a review of the Principles of Design in November. In January we looked at pairings of 19th century artwork that were similar in subject matter but differed in their delivery of Unity and Harmony within the Compositions. And this month we're mixing it up as we scratch the surface of Abstract Art in America from 1900 - 1960.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

February 12th, 9 am	General Meeting	Art Docent Office – All Welcome
March 11th, 9 am	General Meeting	Art Docent Office – All Welcome
April 15th, 9 am	General Meeting	Art Docent Office – All Welcome
May 7-9 & May 12-14	Annual Student Art Show	Fisher Middle School Cafeteria - All Welcome

History of the Art Docents of Los Gatos, Inc.

The Art Docents of Los Gatos was founded in 1973 by district art-teacher Emma Rau and community member Em Hopp, when they applied for and received backing from the Los Gatos Union School District's Board of Trustees. The program began with one full-time paid director, a volunteer chairperson, and twelve community volunteers. In 1980, faced with budget cuts from the school district necessitated by Proposition 13, the program incorporated as a non-profit organization. Funding assistance from members of the community and the Town of Los Gatos allowed the group to continue operations. The group faced a series of moves in the 1980's, until it purchased a modular building and located it on its current site near Fisher Middle School. Thanks to a supportive community, the organization has continued to grow in scope and number of services. With over 80 trained volunteer members, the Art Docents provide a standards-based visual-arts program encompassing art history, art appreciation, aesthetics and art techniques to over 2800 students.

JOIN US!

Our membership is as varied and diverse as our community. Please contact us to learn more about the organization and how you can become a Member. No art experience required! We invite you to sit in during one of our monthly in-class presentations or workshops, attend a general meeting and meet your friends and neighbors, or browse our monthly newsletter "The Palette" on our website. We're hosting a New Member Invitational in May at the Annual Student Art Show. Send us your contact information so that we can add you to the guest list.

The Art Docents of Los Gatos, Inc. is generously supported by LGUSD, LGEF, Home & School Clubs, and local government and community groups through grants and donations. **Thank you all!**



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