



ART DOCENTS OF LOS GATOS

March Canvas

"A picture is a work of art, not because it is "modern," nor because it is "ancient," but because it is a sincere expression of human feeling." (John F. Carlson, 1875-1947)

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 Throughout the year, students are introduced to the basic Elements of Art. They learn about Color, Shape, Line, Texture, Value and Form by studying art prints based on subject categories. This month we'll be studying art prints with animals as the main subject matter. We'll explore how artists use Pattern and Texture to make the animals "come alive."

Grade 1 The first-grade curriculum focuses on Subject Matter and the Principles of Design. In the coming weeks, visiting docents will join first-graders on an exploration of Land, Sea and City-scapes and identify how Rhythm, Movement and Space are used in each composition.

Grade 2 In second grade, Docents and students explore how various artists use the Elements of Art to achieve a variety of goals. March is an exciting month as we turn up the jazz tunes, break out the workshop materials and study the collages and paintings of American artist Romare Bearden who is recognized as one of the most creative and original visual artists of the twentieth century.

Grade 3 Third-grade students explore significant art movements and leading artists in Europe and North America during the late 18th through 21st centuries. This month students are introduced to Cubism - the most defining art movement of the 20th century whereby the artist breaks down the natural forms of the subjects into geometric shapes. Of course, Picasso and Braque will make an appearance to kick off the discussion.

Grade 4 The fourth-grade Docent curriculum is aligned with the grade's social studies curriculum in the study of California history. In this month's lesson, students will examine Space, and discuss how artists use Color and Value, Line and Shape, to create a sense of place. All of the images are everyday scenes of California painted by a variety of 20th century California artists. Students will see how these artists use the Elements to express the light, mood and atmosphere, depth and perspective, emphasis and point of view, depicted in these typically Californian places.

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 session. The lesson plan this month centers on the history of American Portraiture. Through discussion and questions, students will evaluate how or whether the portraits achieve Unity and Harmony in the Composition. A selection of famous portraits created on canvas, silkscreened paper and through photography will be studied.

Upcoming Events

MARK	YOUR	CALENDAR!
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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