

## HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

These materials are designed to provide teachers with an overview of the artists and their work in this exhibition. This information can be used before and/or after a visit to the Woodcock Gallery at the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and they can be used in conjunction with an online experience of the exhibition. Educators should adapt these materials according to the grade level and ability of their students.

## GOALS FOR LEARNING

Students will learn:

1. The history and techniques of landscape painting.
2. How artwork reflects the society for which it was created.
3. How to perceive the elements of art and interpret them visually.
4. Observation and description skills.
5. New vocabulary related to this exhibition.

## LOOKING AT ART WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Museums are among the best places for teaching people how to look carefully and to learn from looking. These skills, referred to as "visual literacy", are obviously critical to understanding art but are also important for experiencing the everyday world.

There are many ways to approach looking at art. All of them are appropriate at different times. With young people, it is important to discover what catches their attention and try to pursue that interest. At other times, it might be useful to point out things you have noticed. In so doing, you help young people expand on their experiences and their capacity to think, to analyze, and to understand.

Identifying and talking about recognizable subject matter is a frequent beginning point, as are inherent or imagined stories that are suggested by the art. Abstract issues can also be observed and discussed; for example, even quite young children can suggest meanings for colors and see the implied energy in a line or brushstroke.

Background information and biographies of artists have less relevance to younger children, although they are almost always of interest to older people. Instead, one can accomplish more by helping young children concentrate on and appreciate the images at hand. An excellent use of time in the exhibition, therefore, is for adults and children to point out things to each other, and share their thoughts and feelings about what they might mean. You can, of course, make mental notes of things you might like to ask the artist if he or she were there, but emphasize what you can see and think about, instead of fretting about what you do not know. The process of discovering information in paintings can be fun and serious, in part because there are few rights and wrongs.

Adapted From the Museum of Modern Art's **A BRIEF GUIDE FOR LOOKING AT ART**