

Classroom Connections

Vol. 7

Welcome to the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Spring 2009

The Clarice Smith National Teacher Institutes

August 3–7, 2009 and August 10–14, 2009

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is pleased to announce a new teacher training initiative: The Clarice Smith National Teacher Institutes.

Join colleagues from across the country in a unique opportunity to collaborate with art experts and leading technology professionals. Through gallery talks, lectures, discussion groups, and hands-on activities, you will study the social context of American art. As part of an interdisciplinary team, you'll share models for integrating art across the curriculum using technology such as podcasting and blogs.



Institutes are open to educator teams of two or three members, each representing a different subject area (i.e., language arts, social studies, science, math, etc.), from the same school or district. Each team member must be a full-time educator working in grades 4–12 in a public, private, or parochial school.

Teams will attend a five-day Institute at the American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. The first Institute is from August 3–7, and the second is from August 10–14, 2009. Each Institute will accommodate thirty participants. Applicants should indicate their session preference but

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keep both weeks open until their registration is finalized.

A nonrefundable program fee of \$200 per person helps support the cost of personal resource materials. The American Art Museum offers two \$500 scholarships per Institute.

Applications must be completed and submitted electronically. The [online application form](#) is found on the museum's Web site. Each team must submit a single application.

Please direct all inquiries via e-mail about The Clarice Smith National Teacher Institutes to AmericanArtClariceSmithInitiative@si.edu.

Applications are due by May 18, 2009.

The Clarice Smith American Art Education Initiative is supported by a generous gift from The Robert H. Smith Family Foundation.

Find Out More: <http://americanart.si.edu/education/dev/cs/>

New Site: *Picturing the 1930s*

http://americanart.si.edu/education/picturing_the_1930s/index.html

In February 2009, American Art launched *Picturing the 1930s*, a Web site developed principally for teachers and students of U.S. History. The site features artworks, photographs, music, and newsreels of the period.



Screen shot of *Picturing the 1930s*. Background: Alexandre Hogue, *Dust Bowl*, 1933, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of International Business Machines Corporation

Students navigate the three-dimensional environment and select artworks to feature in their digital documentaries. With the movie-making tool, users create pans of their images, write their own script, and record an audio track. Material in the site supports 1930s-era topics such as the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Users can also submit their documentary for public viewing in the virtual theater. Supplemented with guidelines for movie production and evaluation, *Picturing the 1930s* offers students a fun way to demonstrate their knowledge of the period and the incentive of publishing their work on a Smithsonian Web site.

Teacher Feature

Podcasting with Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams

Charles Barrett Elementary received a grant from the Smithsonian American Art Museum for fifth-grade students to visit the exhibition *Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams: Natural Affinities* and compare the two artists in a podcasting project.



Art teachers Laura Wollman and Kate Elkins took the project to another level by having the students create their own artwork inspired by the exhibition.

Students photographed nature in their own community and painted abstract compositions inspired by their photographs. Their creations are priceless. Students gained skills and valuable experience in interpreting a picture, recreating a nature scene, and thinking like an artist. Selected student artworks are currently on display in Mayor William Euille's conference room at City Hall, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Sherrill Neale, Technology Resource Teacher, elected to use the Web 2.0 application VoiceThread for their final project because it would combine the voices of the students with the artworks they were discussing. VoiceThread is well designed for educational use, allowing schools to password protect student projects or export them as files to be posted elsewhere. Teachers interested in having their students' podcasts appear on the American Art Museum's podcasting Web site should contact the Museum in advance for

important information gathered during this partnership.



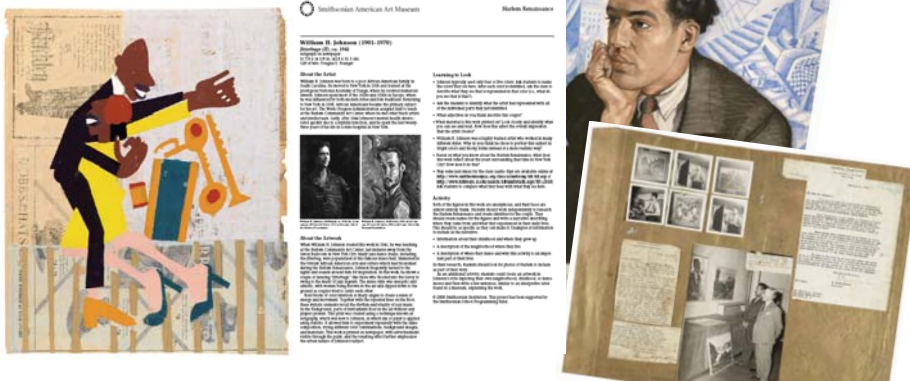
This project combined art, writing, and technology in a twenty-first century learning experience. By hitting many modalities, students were encouraged to think *outside the box*.

Visit the American Art Museum's [student podcasting](http://www.americanart.si.edu/education/podcasting) Web site to listen to other examples of student work.

Apply Now for Your Posters to Go Set!

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Archives of American Art have produced *Posters to Go*, a set of fifteen teaching posters on five historical themes: westward expansion, Civil War, the Harlem Renaissance, World War II, and the 1960s. You may have already participated in surveys to select themes or objects for the posters.

The museums are now accepting applications from teachers who want to use the posters in their classrooms. There are a limited number of sets available, but the images, information, and activities are available to all on our Web site. To apply, [download the resource](#) and follow the instructions on page two. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be evaluated next in May.



National Educational Computing Conference

See educators from American Art at the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Washington, D.C. this summer. The conference will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center from June 28 to July 1, 2009. On June 28, American Art's National Education Partnerships staff will present a session entitled *Learning to Teach through Art & Technology* with colleagues from Cisco's 21st Century Schools Program and educators from the Jefferson Parish Public Schools System (Louisiana). They will discuss the ways art transforms teaching and learning, how technology can enable it, and measurable results from educators who integrate both. Attendees will learn how to bring together curriculum, content, and pedagogy to improve twenty-first century learning skills. For more information about attending visit the NECC Web site: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>

New Videoconference Presenters

The Artful Connections classroom videoconferencing program is pleased to announce that nine new presenters have completed training at the American Art Museum. Recruitment for videoconference presenters began last October due to increased school demand for videoconferences and the addition of a second videoconference studio slated for completion in May. The new presenters completed eight weeks of training wherein they learned about American art, teaching strategies, and videoconference presentation skills.

Artful Connections is a real-time videoconferencing program that ties American art to your curriculum. Teachers can select from fifteen themes that feature American history, literature, heritage months, and much more.

Find out details and schedule your free videoconference with us today at <http://americanart.si.edu/education/tours/video/>. Invite one of our well qualified presenters to explore American art with your students.



National Teachers Advisory Council

The Education Departments of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture are collaborating to develop the Web site *Oh, Freedom! Teaching Civil Rights through African American Art @ the Smithsonian*, which targets educators of grades 5–12. In an effort to create a Web site that will be easily utilized by classroom teachers, the museums will call upon the expertise of a Teacher Advisory Council.

The Teacher Advisory Council's members will play a key role in the development of this project, serving as

advisers on content and usability. Members of the Council will serve for a term of twelve months from June 2009 through June 2010. Applicants must be available to attend five meetings via conference call.

Application packets for the Teacher Advisory Council are due by **May 1, 2009**. Selected teachers will receive an honorarium for their time and expertise and will be credited on the Web site. For more information about applying to become a member of the Teacher Advisory Council, please e-mail CivilRightsTAC@si.edu.

Students Contribute to State History Web site



Last year we announced a new Web site featuring Nam June Paik's [*Electronic Superhighway*](#).

The project, designed as an assessment, introduces students of state history to Paik's video portrait of the United States. The lesson asks them to visually represent their state. The activity integrates state-history content with writing and the visual arts through journaling and collage activities. After submitting work to the site, students can see their projects alongside that of their peers nationwide.



Be the first from your state to contribute! For resources, samples of student work, and information on how to submit your class's work, visit the [*Superhighway Scholars*](#) Web site.