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Media Web site: americanart.si.edu/press

Fact Sheet
George Catlin in the Classroom
Smithsonian American Art Museum Launches Education Web Site

Education Web site:

“Campfire Stories with George Catlin: An Encounter of Two Cultures” is a richly layered educational Web site that is available for the 2002–2003 academic year as a resource for teachers and students, grades 5–12. The museum’s site includes virtual campfire discussions, moderated by naturalist and writer Peter Matthiessen, that incorporate George Catlin’s journals, commentary from Native Americans, primary source materials and activities for students. Works by Catlin in the museum’s collection, including his sketchbook, are featured on the site.

Prominent scholars, writers and leaders participating in this multimedia Web site include:

Alyce Spotted Bear (Mandan/ Nu eta and Hidatsa/Nuxbahga), leader in tribal government and former chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara)

Elizabeth Broun, director, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Emery Battis as the voice of George Catlin, actor and 2002 Helen Hayes Award winner

George P. Horse Capture (Gros Ventre/A'aninin), deputy assistant director for cultural resources, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

William Least Heat-Moon (Osage/Wa-zha-zhe I-e), writer

Wes Jackson, president, The Land Institute, Salina, Kan.

Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee), advocate and former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation

Peter Matthiessen, naturalist and writer

Richard Murray, art historian, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Peter Nabokov, anthropologist, University of California, Los Angeles

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Flathead Salish), artist

W. Richard West (Southern Cheyenne), director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

National Standards:

The campfire stories and activities address **history standards** developed by the National Center for History in the Schools, **geography standards** developed by the Geography Education Standards Project, **visual arts standards** developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations, **English language arts standards** developed by the National Council of Teachers of English and **science education standards** developed by the National Academies of Science.

Where:

<http://CatlinClassroom.si.edu>

Related Exhibition:

“George Catlin and His Indian Gallery”

Sept. 6, 2002 through Jan. 20, 2003

Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.

School Tours:

Students can tour the exhibition “George Catlin and His Indian Gallery” in Washington, D.C. in small docent-led groups that encourage active participation. This extraordinary field trip is a perfect way to augment classroom studies and use of the Web site. Resource packets will be available for the fall.

Contact:

For information on the Web site, resource packets or to schedule school tours, call (202) 633-8528.

Support:

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The Museum especially thanks colleagues at the National Museum of the American Indian for their close collaboration and assistance throughout the preparation of “George Catlin and His Indian Gallery.”

Special thanks to the Catlin teacher advisory council, made-up of award-winning teachers from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area school districts, for their contributions and guidance in developing this Web site.

About the Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. Its National Historic Landmark building, a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district. Museum hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metrorail station: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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