New Museum Sites to See

Craig Roland

Many art museums provide valuable educational resources for teachers and students on the Web. The following museum resources are worth checking out as you prepare for the new school year.

Aminah's World
aminahsworld.org

This interactive site from the Columbus Museum of Art features the extraordinary Ohio folk artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, whose diverse body of work ranges from artist books, drawings, and woodcuts to complex sculptures and installations made from a variety of natural and synthetic materials. The site is exceptionally rich in content with a biographical timeline; a video interview with the artist and tour of her home/studio; galleries of her work that chronicle stories of her family, community, travels, and African American heritage; explanations of her processes and choice of materials; opportunities to read and share responses to her work; plus downloadable lesson plans, images, and other classroom materials.

The Dancers and Degas
www.metmuseum.org/explore/dancers/index.html

Young students will enjoy learning about Edgar Degas and his favorite subject, ballet dancers, using this art interactive from the Metropolitan Museum. The site offers several learning pathways for students to explore including listening to stories about Degas while studying different works he did of ballet dancers, using different materials and techniques to mimic some of Degas' processes, and reading about Degas' life and work. There is also a section for parents and teachers.

Educators Online
educators.mfa.org

Educators Online is a new teaching and learning tool from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston that allows you to create and share custom online art galleries. After registering on the site, you can create your first gallery by browsing or searching the MFA's collections, choosing and dragging artworks into your gallery area, adding your own text, and uploading your own materials from lesson plans to multimedia files. You can also add special features to your galleries such as enlarge and zoom buttons, a print option, and the ability to place two images side-by-side for comparison purposes. Once you're satisfied with your gallery, you can keep it private or share it with others by making it public. In addition to creating your own gallery, you can explore and save galleries made by other teachers and museum staff members in your "favorite galleries" list.

smARTkids
smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/smartkids

The University of Chicago's David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art recently relaunched its interactive smARTkids website, which invites elementary and middle school students to look at works of art in different ways, learn the language of art, work with different art materials, and unravel clues about the history and meaning of selected artworks. The site includes improved navigational features, a revised Art Detective game, and video content in the Artist Studio section. A virtual sketchbook tool is also available that students can use to record and print their impressions of different works they observe while visiting the four main sections of on the site. Suggestions for parents and teachers are provided.

Superhighway Scholars
americanart.si.edu/education/rs/index.cfm

Sponsored by the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM), Superhighway Scholars is a classroom activity designed to complement the state history curriculum taught in many elementary schools. Inspired by Nam June Paik's monumental video installation, *Electronic Superhighway*, students are encouraged to share the important people, places, and events that they feel make their state unique by creating their own collages of state historical and geographic facts. They can then upload their collages to the SAAM site for display in the student showcase, where others can view their artwork online. ✐

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