



Welcome to The Metropolitan Museum of Art

John S. Welch

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is a world treasure. In its transformative space and among its celebrated collections, you will encounter an encyclopedic history of art that spans the existence of humanity. Each of its magnificent objects provides insight and relevance to our collective understanding of beauty and the history of humankind throughout the ages.

It is my pleasure to welcome the NAEA National Convention to our home, which houses the heritage of all people within the grandeur of a great New York City architectural landmark.

Education at the Met

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's education department serves every audience imaginable. Our mission is to foster understanding and appreciation of art. In order to pursue this mission with care and excellence, we possess a large staff of professionals who work in specialized areas. The major divisions of our education department are: adult programs, youth programs, educational media, concerts and lectures, grants and fellowships, and administration. The youth programs division is most pertinent to the service of K–12 audiences. This division is charged with conceiving, planning, and implementing pro-

gramming for audiences ages three to seventeen. Within youth programs there are multiple areas that focus on particular audiences: School programs (K–12), teacher programs (onsite and off), family programs (onsite and off), student programs (largely for individual middle and high school students pursuing art classes, gallery experiences, and internships), and the Nolen Library, which is the only designated public library among numerous libraries at the Met.

Uris Education Center

Over the past several years, the education department has served its vast audience with the constraint of a major construction project in

its midst. We are very excited about the realization of that project in the official opening of the new Uris Education Center in October 2007. Our new space will encompass a greatly expanded receiving area for K–12 students, state-of-the-art classroom and lecture facilities, a specialized art-study room, and an enlarged Nolen Library. Among its offerings, the library will house a children's storytelling and program nook as well as an area specifically designated for teacher study and resources. The opening of the Uris Education Center will enable the Met to build upon its long-established record of offering excellent programming to all of its audiences, and to branch out in new and innovative directions in the years ahead. It is our hope that audiences both close to home and far afield will benefit from our latest effort with a renewed resolve to engage in all that the world of informal learning environments brings to teaching, discovery, and artmaking.

The Met's Collection

During your time with us at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, we hope that you have deep and meaningful engagement with our permanent collections and special exhibitions. Please make a particular effort to seek out the works from the museum's collections that have been highlighted in the 2006–2007 issues of *SchoolArts* in the Looking/Learning centerfold posters and Gallery Cards written by Met educators. Many of these works will be on display for your study and contemplation, while others will be on loan, in conservation, in storage, or inaccessible because of construction. This is the way of museums. We can promise, however, that there will be many other great masterpieces or compelling art on view for your visit. We hope you enjoy and are inspired by the art encounters the Met allows. When you leave us, our desire is for your enhanced stimulation of ideas and its application to classroom teaching. The Metropolitan Museum is your resource whether you are in New York or elsewhere.

Teacher Resources

Please explore the Museum's Timeline of Art History (metmuseum.org/toah), our resources for educators

available online for downloading and for purchase (metmuseum.org/explore/classroom.asp#printable), and our emerging distance-learning opportunities and Web-based teacher chat rooms. All of these services are designed to keep you connected to the Metropolitan Museum of Art as part of the national and international community we are committed to serve.

Have a great conference and a wonderful stay in New York City!

John S. Welch is the museum educator in charge of youth programs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

WEB LINK

metmuseum.org

One of the teacher workshops available at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

