

LESSON 5

The Creative Process and Careers in Art REVIEW

Art is a creative process that takes many forms. Artists work in different ways but follow four major steps when they create art: they develop ideas for art, explore and refine those ideas, use materials and techniques to create the works, and evaluate their work.

To some degree, everyone has the urge and ability to create art. The reason this is true has to do with certain traits and potentials that all human beings have: the structure of the human brain and mind, aesthetic perception, imagination, symbolic thinking and the inventive use of materials.

Education and training play important roles in the development of interest and ability in art. The way art is taught has changed through time. It also differs from one culture to another. Today, there are hundreds of art-related jobs and many careers for art specialists.

The most important people in the art world are citizens who understand, appreciate and support art. Freedom of artistic expression is a vital part of democratic life. Almost every aspect of our daily life is influenced by the skills of people educated in art and design.

[SKETCHBOOK ASSIGNMENT 5-1](#)

In your sketchbook, review and complete the following questions:

Creating Art

1. List the four main steps of the creative process in art.
2. List at least six careers in art. Briefly describe the main purpose of each one.
3. Choose one career in art. Read more about it. Write a one-page report stating:
 - a. The name of the career
 - b. Related careers
 - c. Typical jobs and tasks,
 - d. Abilities and traits required for success in the field,
 - e. Education required, and
 - f. Possible summer jobs to learn more about the career.

Art History

1. Describe four ways that education in art was done in the past.
2. State three reasons why the work of art historians is important.
3. List three careers in art museums.

Art Criticism

1. When does evaluation, or art criticism, occur in the creative process?
2. What are the main aims of art criticism?
3. List four careers in the art world that involve the sale or exchange of artworks of art.
4. Why is it important for all people to be well-educated in art?

Aesthetics

Write a sentence or brief paragraph that gives the meaning of these terms:

- a) Artistic process,
- b) Aesthetic perception
- c) Imagination
- d) Symbolic thinking
- e) Invention

Folk art

1. Why is aesthetic perception important in art?
2. What do aestheticians do? Why is their work important?
3. List five reasons why all people have the potential to create art.



Understanding Art: Gallery Visits

The importance of visiting museums and galleries can be summed up in two concepts: heritage and stimulation. These two invaluable things are essential for the continued growth of any individual. Without them, you're pretty much going to feel stuck in a rut, bored out of your mind from the routines of the modern world.

Let's talk about heritage first. Dictionaries define it as an [inheritance](#), something that belongs to you by virtue of birth. Heritage, therefore, is something that was passed onto you by those who came before you. Visiting museums and galleries helps you understand that legacy, and to appreciate it.



Museums and galleries aren't just mere showrooms of antiquated objects. They're living, breathing embodiments of your cultural and national heritage. The various artifacts of your history [ring](#) out to you, a reminder of just how you got to where you are now. From the simple tools and paintings of prehistory to the dated machinery of the industrial revolution, museums show you the path of human life throughout the ages by providing actual examples of how we

used to live. Museum exhibits specializing in Americana illustrate our storied past by showing you the actual items from the times the first pilgrims landed upon our shores. You can see how life was in the times of the Revolutionary War. You can discover how our country came to be.



Every artifact in a museum tells a story. A coin from long ago tells you how goods were exchanged back in those days. An aged flag echoes the cries of liberty and freedom that created our nation. A rusty old musket tells you of the struggle we had to go through in the process.

Not only can we find our heritage in artifacts, but we can find it in art as well. Paintings and sculptures from our past are snapshots of their times, reflecting the ideologies and culture of the day. You can see the beginnings of modern thought from classic pieces of art, as well as the aesthetics that set the [standards](#) of beauty.

In terms of stimulation, few things are as inherently intellectually stimulating as museums and galleries. Exhibits and pieces of art are often thought-provoking, appealing to your mind in more ways than one. Many museums are incorporating interactive features into their exhibits to boost attendance and interest. Depending on where you go, you can see, touch, hear, and feel your way through the exhibits, creating a 360-degree experience. More and more art is

also becoming interactive, from dynamic sculptures that invite you to move them around, to paintings that have meaning behind their textures.

Perhaps one of the most important ways museums and galleries can stimulate you is through inspiration. They awaken both your natural thirst for knowledge and your creativity. They help [unlock](#) your hidden potentials through their exhibits. By visiting museums and galleries, you broaden your world and your mind, and it is because of this that a simple tour can prove to be a valuable part of your personal growth.

SKETCHBOOK ASSIGNMENT 5-2: Students are to visit 3 Art Museum and/or Galleries. Students are to choose 2-3 works of art to write about from each of the visits in their sketchbooks. Entries must include an image, description, and a critique. Use the following criteria to guide you through the process:

1. **Determine how much time you want to spend in a venue in a single session.** For example, all the works in the Vancouver Art Museum can be casually and comfortably browsed in 2 hours. A local gallery storefront can be browsed in 5 or 10 minutes.
2. **Determine what primary art mediums you are interested in:** Painting, sculpture, oils, watercolors, modern, realism, representational, classical, and so on. This will help you figure out which venues to visit.
3. **Most major cities have multiple venues for viewing art.** Downtown Vancouver has the Museum of Art and a lot of small galleries. Surrey and Burnaby also have a variety of venues to visit. The Internet is also a great resource to find great places to visit. Call ahead before visiting.
4. **Take more time with the artwork that especially interests you.** In fact, if you find some art that particularly pleases you, you might want to spend 10 or 20 minutes with it to absorb all the meaning. See it from a distance and as close as the guards will allow. Take your sketchbook and some supplies to draw (or photograph if possible). It's also good to spend some time, write about it or just take notes of what you're thinking at that very moment.
5. **Take some time to answer these questions.** See the brush strokes - how do they flow? Capture the overall design of the artwork. Does it seem to have sections? How about the colours? Are they spectacular or dull? If it is a portrait, does it seem to send you a message? Sometimes in a painting a few red or orange specs of colour make the painting very exciting. If it is a modern painting or sculpture, can you tell the theme without looking at the nameplate? What shades of blue did the artist use? Some shades affect our circadian cycles and put us in a good frame of mind (perhaps to sleep), etc.
6. **At the end of your visit, try and re-visualize what you saw.** This will encourage your brain to remember.