

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Mia Adult Guides Engaging multigenerational audiences

October 21, 2021

Mia



Martin Parr, Untitled [Minneapolis. Winter Games. Ice Fishing. Left to right: Tabby Allers, Neil Frandsen, Sammy Diemert, Dan Diemert, Casi Diemert, Gabrielle Diemert, and Joe Johnson.], 2012, Pigment print, 2012.46.4, © Martin Parr, courtesy Janet Borden, Inc., NY

Record

Agenda

- Resources for growing knowledge of Mia's collections
- Engaging multigenerational audiences
- Small Group Discussion (share-out of Cross Currents tour worksheet)
- Questions from feedback forms
- Homework and upcoming peer learning opportunities
- Q&A



Expand your brain!

Former class materials (including videos) are archived and accessible on the Mia Guide website!

Main menu: Guide Training and CE/Archived Guide classes (CIF/AAG/Docent)

Art Breaks are also recorded and posted (search “Art Break” to get a list of results).

Unknown Japanese, Shaving Fukurokuju from a Ladder, 18th century, Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper, 99.59.12

Have some fun with research!
Find an artist, artwork, technique,
or material you'd like to learn more
about and have fun exploring!

The Mia Guide website also has
numerous object files (under
Permanent Collection) and a link to
resources on the Mia website
(Teaching the Arts and ArtStories).



Attributed to Kano Yukinobu, Hanshan and Shide, 16th
century, Ink and gold on mica-coated paper,
2015.79.59

Artstories: <https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/122113>

Continue to connect with each other
As we know, you all hold a wealth of
information on the collection. When the
resource list is available, reach out to those
who are offering their knowledge in areas with
which you are unfamiliar.

Staff will also be scheduling more peer learning
opportunities, to encourage our collaborative
community of guides.



Wing Young Huie, Two Friends,
Frogtown, 1994, Gelatin silver print,
98.228.2, © Wing Young Huie

Best practices for engaging multigenerational audiences

- The “welcome!” sets the stage for your interaction as visitors enter the museum or gallery. Visitors sense if you are friendly and accessible from your words, facial expressions, and body language. Smile and show your sense of humor. A tour is a fun activity!



Unknown Japanese, Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light, 12th century, Japanese cypress with polychrome and gold, 2015.79.256a-c

Best practices for engaging multigenerational audiences, continued

- Introduce yourself, and if comfortable, include your preferred pronouns (e.g., she/her/hers). This especially helps when your group has teens.
- Convey the theme of the tour. Set the shared expectation of what you will be exploring together. If you are part of a Cross Currents tour, connect your artwork to the overall tour theme.



Ancient Greek, Greece, Europe, Grave Stele, 5th century BCE, Pentellic marble, 31.4

Best practices for engaging multigenerational audiences, continued

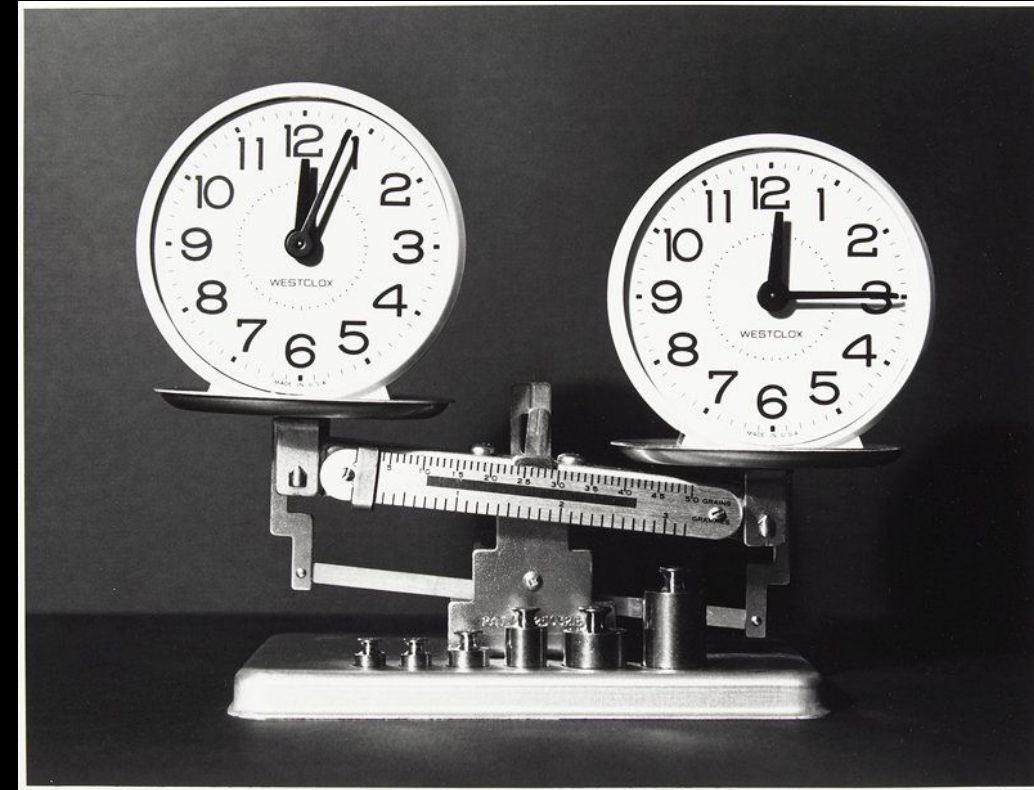
- Ask icebreakers: “What brings you to the museum today?” or “What type of art do you enjoy?” Avoid asking the question “Where are you from?” as this is a form of microaggression, especially when asked of people of color.
- Use inclusive language (all, everybody, everyone, you all, folks, etc.) and avoid gender binaries (e.g., boys/girls, ladies/gentlemen).



Karel Allard; Artist: after Jacob De Wit, Map of the World, 1710, Engraving, The Minnich Collection, 1966, P.14,633

Best practices for engaging multigenerational audiences, continued

- For public tours, confirm that the tour lasts one hour, but note visitors always are free to leave the tour at any point.
- On Cross Currents tours, read your group and adjust your facilitation to the groups' needs, as best you can. Some visitors may want to stay a longer time than others.



Kenji Nakahashi, Time - (B), 1985, Gelatin silver print, 85.50, © Kenji Nakahashi

Tips and Tricks with a mixed age group

- Ask what people can see from their various viewpoints, from the tallest to the shortest, nearest to the farthest person.



Jamie Okuma; Designer: Shoes designed by Christian Louboutin, Adaptation II, 2012, Leather, glass beads, porcupine quills, sterling silver cones, brass sequins, chicken feathers, cloth, deer rawhide, buckskin, 2012.68.1a,b, © 2012 Jamie Okuma

Share out your ideas
or tips and techniques

Kongo, Democratic Republic of
Congo, "Ntadi" figure, 19th century,
Stone, 2017.28

Minneapolis Institute of Art



Stretch Break (5 minutes)

Paul Wolff, *Gymnastik auf dem Juvens-Hausboot im Wannsee*, 1934, Gelatin silver print, 98.195.45, © Paul Wolff



Small group discussion in breakout rooms (15 minutes)

Share your Cross Currents ideas from your worksheet.

- The theme for the Cross Currents tour is Encounters and Exchanges. What were your two chosen artworks?
- What artwork--new to you--did you choose? Share some of what you learned with each other.

Debrief and sharing your research

For each small group, tell us about one new artwork you discussed. How did it fit within the theme?

We will provide a link to a Google form on Friday, where you can share your artwork and the research resources you found. We will then eventually share this spreadsheet as a resource for all within the materials for this October 21 session.

Question on feedback form: What is the difference between a “topic” and a “theme,” in relation to tours?

Topic →



Dreamstime.com

↑
Themes

Question on feedback form: What is the difference between a “topic” and a “theme,” in relation to tours?

Groups will request a general tour topic on the request form:
e.g., Asian Arts and Artists; African Arts and Artists; etc.

As the guide, you develop a theme within this topic, to provide that “thread” connecting the artworks on your tour. In developing a theme, think of what may be appealing to your group.

Topic: Modern and Contemporary Arts and Artists

Possible themes: Pushing the Boundaries, New Materials for New Art, Points of View, Is that Art? Art and the Environment (or other social issues)

Question on feedback form: What are the resources available for themed tours? How much time do we have to develop a themed tour?

Staff is creating a set of artworks, with supporting information (key ideas, suggested questions, and additional research sources) for every tour topic for school tours (On the Mia Guide website's menu, check School Guides/Topics for School Tours). Adult Guides may access these resources for tour planning, adapting the key ideas/questions as needed for an adult or multigenerational audience.

Guides receive the same amount of time for planning a themed tour, so 4 to 6 weeks from the tour assignment.

Question on feedback form: Could I choose to only do Cross-Current tours OR themed adult group tours?

We need to tap from the pool of all guides to meet the needs of incoming tour requests.

On weekends, we plan to offer Cross Current tours as we return to the galleries. We will consider offering a Cross-Current tour on Thursday evenings. We are reviewing the data for daily public tours (Current Conversations) during the week, to better plan for our return to the galleries. We also are considering the continuation of one monthly virtual public tour. Private group in-person tour requests will be assigned beginning in April.

Homework

Worksheet to be sent on Friday:

Think of a list of 8 artworks that fit within the topic of “Women and Art” (our March public tour topic) and develop a theme.

Next session:

October 28, 6 to 8 pm, virtual



Naomi Schindler, Boy Reading, 2nd half of the 20th century, Woodcut, 2018.125.5, © Estate of Naomi Schindler

Upcoming peer learning opportunities

We are working on offering peer-led public tours and book tours (in-person and virtual).
Dates and times, TBD, so stay tuned!



Philco Radio and Television Corporation, Predicta "Princess" television, 1959, Metal, plastic, pigment, electronic components, Gift of Various Donors, by exchange, 2002.136

Other Questions?