

The Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has established a new pilot education program titled **Writing in the Galleries**.

Through the art work found in the museum galleries we hope to motivate and inspire students as readers and writers, improve their writing skills, boost their confidence and self esteem, enrich their academic experience and help improve their test scores.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**How to Participate:** Call, write, or email the museum and provide your name, school, contact information and best time to call. We will contact and deliver additional information for you to review.

**Cost:** There is no cost for children, teachers, or parental chaperons associated with the "Writing in the Galleries" program.

Free admission and transportation is available to qualifying Title I schools. Underwriting was provided by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts /Louisiana State Arts Council and private donations. Free admission and transportation is limited and provided on a first come - first served basis.



Credits: Jack Harrison, photography. Exhibitions featured in photographs include *American Impressionism: An Arcadian Vision from the Akron Museum of Art*; *Deborah Butterfield Sculpture*; and *Picasso: Twenty-Five Years of Edition Ceramics from The Edward Weston Collection*

# Writing in the Galleries

## *Motivating and Inspiring Students as Writers*



Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Art, State Arts Council and a partnership with Americorps, UL Lafayette

# Imagine a world where we teach our children to SEE and communicate.

Partnering with teachers to improve the language arts skills of students in Acadiana is the primary objective of the **Writing in the Galleries** program. The visual arts can be a powerful tool inspiring the desire to learn and communicate. Through this exciting new program the museum provides structured opportunities to use specific language arts skills at that point of inspiration. A secondary objective is motivating and inspiring students as readers and writers, increasing their interest in literature, improving their writing skills, boosting their confidence and self esteem, enriching their academic experience, and improving their test scores.

A unique aspect of this discipline-based program is the placement of students in the gallery environment among selected works of art. Exposure to visual imagery literally builds the imagination. It is especially important for younger children who are accustomed to “reading” the world without words to learn to connect words and ideas with images.



Observation skills, and really seeing, are not innate but taught. Seeing, interpreting and understanding are perhaps the most important skills we learn as human beings. Communicating our observations is primarily accomplished by the written and spoken word. Through the **Writing in the Galleries** program the objects we display and interpret in the art museum become tools for achieving practical goals in language arts and more incorporeal objectives in the lives of our visitors.



**Writing in the Galleries** begins in the classroom. The museum will provide the tools and material needed to introduce selected artwork and a series of language arts exercises that can be integrated into your lesson plans.

The museum's partner in this program is UL Lafayette's Americorps Community Service Program. Trained Americorps team members serve as liaisons between you and the museum. These UL Lafayette students are charged with promoting **Writing in the Galleries**, and supporting classroom teachers involved in the program. They will deliver pre-visit material and serve as a consultant in their use and integration into your curriculum. Americorps team members will also help arrange and coordinate classroom visits to the museum and conduct post-visit evaluations.

The actual classroom visit to the museum can take place in late fall through the end of the school year. During the visit students will be guided by a museum volunteer docent and engaged in the exercises developed for **Writing in the Galleries**.

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