

MASTERS OF WESTERN ART – TEACHER GUIDE



DESCRIPTION

Study the artists who defined Western art and the contemporary visionaries shaping its future. Dive into the techniques and stories behind these great works. Optional add-on includes video of a Prix de West artist sharing encouragement and advice for art students

THEMATIC CONCEPTS

Western artists portray the history and evolution of the American West.

- Albert Bierstadt paints a romanticized view of the West, blending realistic details with a sense of grandeur and sublime beauty.
- Charles Schreyvogel offers dynamic and action-packed scenes that illustrate the intensity and drama of frontier life.
- Frederic Remington captures the individualism and harsh realities of Western life.
- Charles Russell portrays everyday life by blending realism, warmth and narrative depth.
- Prix de West celebrates the diverse heritage and beauty of Western landscapes, wildlife and people.

OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2025-2026]

Fine Arts

VA.CHP.1 – Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding. (I.VA.CHP.1.1, II.VA.CHP.1.1, III.VA.CHP.1.1, II.VA.CHP.1.2, II.VA.CHP.1.2, III.VA.CHP.1.2)

VA.ARCM.1 – Perceive, analyze, interpret and evaluate artistic work. (I.VA.ARCM.1.2., I.VA.ARCM.1.5)

KEY WORDS AND TERMS

Balance – The way elements are arranged to create a sense of stability or equality in artwork.

Brushwork – The way an artist applies paint with a brush. It encompasses various techniques, including the thickness of paint, the direction of strokes and the texture created.

Color – The palette used by an artist for a particular work to create harmony, mood, etc.

Contrast – The difference between elements, like colors or textures, that are placed next to one another to bring attention or focus.

Composition – The arrangement of how visual elements (i.e., shapes, colors, lines and textures) are organized.

Emphasis – Special attention given to one part of an artwork; it can also pertain to where an object is placed.

Form - Three-dimensional objects, figures or the illusion of one in art; it has height, width, and depth, like a cube or sphere.

Harmony - The arrangement or use of similar elements to create a feeling they work together or are pieces of a whole.

Line – A fundamental element in art, which can be straight, curved, thick, thin or even implied. These can define shapes, create movement and convey emotions.

Movement – The use of elements which draw your eye to a certain place in the artwork.

Pattern – The regular, repeated arrangement of shapes, lines or colors.

Scale – The relationship between objects, such as size or number.

Shape - A two-dimensional flat figure that can take geographic forms.

Space – The area around, between or within objects in art; it can be positive (filled) or negative (empty) and show depth or distance.

Texture – the quality or appearance of a surface, such as smooth, rough, soft, etc. Actual texture can be felt (i.e., sculpture), whereas implied texture can be seen (i.e., brushwork).

Value – The lightness or darkness of a color that is used to create contrast, depth and three-dimensionality.

**MUSEUM
GALLERIES**

William S. and Ann Atherton Gallery

Robert and Grace Eldridge *Prix de West* Gallery

Tour may be modified to accommodate group size, time constraints, and/or gallery availability.
