

# ART OF THE AMERICAN WEST—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 recorded the history and changing times of the American West. Their legacy is still strong, impacting how we view the West in our culture today.**

- Art of the West inspires Americans.
- The Western Artist documents history.
- Western Artists are masters of technique.
- Art of the West thrives in today's culture

## OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2019]

### 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)

### Social Studies

**3.A.9-12.1** Gather, organize, and analyze various kinds of primary and secondary source evidence on related topics, evaluating the credibility of sources.

**3.A.9-12.2** Evaluate the usefulness of primary and secondary sources for specific inquiry, based on the author, date, place of origin, intended audience, and purpose.

**3.A.9-12.6** Assess the significance and impact of individuals and groups throughout local, national, tribal, and world history, tracing the continuity of past events to the present.

**4.A.9-12.2** Analyze information from visual, oral, digital, and interactive texts (e.g. maps, charts, images, political cartoons, videos) in order to draw conclusions and defend arguments.

## 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; they have 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.

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## MUSEUM GALLERIES

**Atherton Gallery**

**Robert and Grace Eldridge *Prix de West* Gallery**

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

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