

Session I: 10-11am

A. Don't Say Ssshhush! Leading Tours for Preschoolers

Many art museums are designed for adults who engage in quiet reflection, rather than for active preschoolers who want to point, touch, laugh, and shriek with delight. With a little preparation, however, an art museum tour for 4 year olds can be an enjoyable experience for all. In this session, participants will learn strategies and practice using tour materials and activities that are developmentally appropriate and help children strengthen their cognitive, socio-emotional, and motor abilities. *Led by Laura McManus, Curator of Education, and Diane Morgan, Docent at the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College*

Location: Fayerweather 208

B. Sketch It: Docent-led Sketching Activities from the VMFA

In the museum, VMFA docents will model "Sketch It," a hands-on gallery experience that allows students of all ages to examine art more closely through sketching. These drawing exercises increase visual awareness, improve eye/hand coordination and encourage critical thinking. *Led by Anne Walker, Docent at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

Location: Fralin Galleries

C. Practices and Pitfalls of Discussing Indigenous Art

Without specific training, many docents assume erroneously that Indigenous art can be researched and discussed in similar ways as non-Indigenous art. This classroom session will explore a) how to research an Indigenous artwork, b) general ideas to communicate about Indigenous cultures, c) how to talk about Indigenous artworks as part of a tour, d) topics and terms to avoid, and e) how to answer challenging questions. *Led by Lauren Maupin, Education and Program Coordinator, and Fenella Belle, Museum Educator at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection at UVA*

Location: Campbell 160

Session II: 11:15am-12:15pm

A. Bright & Eager: Lessons and Best Practices from The Fralin Student Docents

As a university museum, The Fralin is positioned to serve both the Charlottesville community and the university community. Student docents and education staff will document the development of the long-running University of Virginia Student Docent Program and discuss its primary function and goals, teaching best practices and field any questions other museums have about working with college-age volunteers. *Led by Emily Lazaro, Docent Coordinator at The Fralin Museum of Art and Fralin Student Docents*

Location: Campbell 160

B. SAPLINGS: Students and Parents Learning Intellectual Growth Strategies

Docents from the Chrysler Museum of Art will share best practices from “SAPLINGS,” a docent-led program for first-grade children from title-one schools in Virginia Beach and their parents. The program objective is to provide students and parents knowledge to use in the museum, without the need to know anything about art, and to discover that the museum is a fun place to visit. *Led by Charlene Carney, Chris Rowland, Widget Williams, Master Docents at the Chrysler Museum of Art*

Location: Fayerweather 206

C. Taking the Museum to Prison: Docents in the Big House

Docents from the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary will discuss their off-site programming for local prisoners. The Docent presenters hope to define the procedures and unique characteristics of establishing such a program and hope to share their personal experiences. Additionally, the session should serve as a reminder to us that art and culture transcend stone walls and iron bars and can benefit anyone, anywhere. *Led by Barbara Smith and Karen Spaulding, Docents at the Muscarelle Museum of Art*

Location: Campbell 108

Session III: 1:30-2:30pm

A. Tickle My Ears: Program for Preschool Children and Families

Docents from the Chrysler Museum of Art will share best practices from “Tickle My Ears,” a docent-led preschool program for preschool children and caregivers. *Led by Sally Schmidt and Mary Moberg, Docents at the Chrysler Museum of Art in the Fralin*

Location: Fralin Galleries

B. Panel: Conversations about Race in the Art Museum

Join docents and professional educators as they answer questions about race, inclusivity, and empathy in the art museum. *Moderated by Karen Getty, Docent and Tour Services Coordinator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

Location: Campbell 160

C. Looking Within: Art and Mindfulness

In this in-gallery presentation, participants will engage in a collaborative examination of a work of art, sharing insights that build a group experience, after which we will use techniques from the mindfulness/meditation traditions to focus our attention inward, moving into a space of awareness beyond words. *Led by June Heintz, Docent at The Fralin Museum of Art*

Location: Fralin Galleries

Session IV: 2:45-3:45pm

A. Arts Fusion: Pulling from your Docent Toolkit to Give a Voice to Older Adults

Arts Fusion offers adults with memory loss and their caregivers meaningful, low pressure art viewing and conversation sessions at the Museum. In this session, participants will learn how the Maier is crafting conversation-based tours and hands-on art activities that are multi-sensory and honor the personhood of each older adult and caregiver. We will present theoretical information and research data that has helped us to enhance our program. *Led by Amy Castine, Docent at the Maier Museum of Art Docent and graduate student in museum studies at VCU.*

Location: Campbell 158

B. Teachable Moments: Getting to Know Art Through a Different Eye

VMFA docents explain the process and the specific guidelines for “Teachable Moments,” a peer-led education model for research and teaching. Participants will learn strategies and receive a template to guide research. In addition, techniques will be explored for how to talk about and explore a single work of art for an extended period of time, reflecting the influences of the “Slow Art Movement.” *Led by Rosaleen Cosby and Douglas D’Urso, Docents at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

Location: Fralin Galleries

C. Making Connections: Using Arts-Based Research to Develop Tour Themes and Support Docent Learning

The first step to *teaching* with art in the galleries is *learning* about the art in the galleries. Fralin staff used this innovative research method to develop themed tours representing multiple critical and disciplinary perspectives in its object study gallery, as well as thematic connections for its Writer’s Eye program. In this session, we’ll introduce analog hypertext as a research method that supports docent learning and facilitates making connections between diverse artworks. *Led by Aimee Hunt, Associate Academic Curator at The Fralin Museum of Art*

Location: Fralin Galleries