

2007 VA Docent Exchange

Workshop Descriptions

Animals in Art – Characters, Symbols and Witnesses

Presenters: Karen Spaulding and Georgianna Avioli,
Muscarella Museum Docents

Discover fresh ways to address domestic, wild and mythological animals in various art forms.

Are History Paintings Cool?

Presenter: Debbie Daniels-Mohring, VMFA Docent

How do you make 16th and 17th century paintings of royalty and big ships seem relevant to today's audience? Explore the exhibition *Rule Britannia!* with Debbie Daniels-Mohring to find out and use what you learn to enhance history paintings in your museum.

Art on the Spot

Presenter: Karen Palen, VMFA Docent

In case you missed it last time, join Karen Palen as she presents *Art on the Spot*, VMFA's outreach program for students K-5. Participate in an activity from one of the 7 differently themed visits and see why Art on the Spot had close to 8,000 participants last year!

Is It Art?

Presenters: Sharon Keith, Jane Medlin-Burton, Barbara Shotton,
Muscarella Museum Docents

When viewing art in a museum, sometimes one may wonder, "What is this painting or sculpture doing here? Is it really art?" This workshop will teach docents how to involve groups in an interactive tour that is non-threatening and is one in which they can freely voice their opinions about such works. Participants will learn to look closely at paintings or sculptures and form their own opinions.

Gallery Games

Presenters: Beverly May, UVA Art Museum Docent and Jennifer Van Winkle,
Education Program Coordinator, UVA Art Museum

Explore activities with galleries devoted to enabling people of all ages and skill levels to associate with and relate to art in varying ways.

Keep Them Listening...

Presenter: Pam Bomboy, VMFA Docent

Research indicates that 40% of a first impression of you is based on the sound of your voice. Your sound says as much as your words. In this interactive session explore ways to build on the natural qualities of your own unique voice in order to strengthen and polish your delivery for interpreting art in the 21st century.

Museums & SOLs: Issues and Solutions

Chair: Marlowe D'Oriano, Contemporary Art Center of Virginia

In this panel discussion, docents and education staff come together to share the effects of Virginia Standards of Learning on their programs. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange different approaches in incorporating and how they influence the relationship between schools and museums.

Seeing a Painting By Touch

Presenter: Shirley Confino-Rehder, Muscarelle Museum Docent

Enhance your sensitivity to *really* seeing a painting in this hands-on workshop that is back by popular demand! Shirley will demonstrate and guide participants in identifying the basic elements and principles of art in selected paintings, recreating these forms in a 3 dimensional paint model, and then describing the painting to a visually impaired audience.

Story Studio

Presenter: Debra Stoss, VMFA Docent

Combining storybooks, art history lessons, and drawing into one 50-minute program? Try it for yourself in this hit family gallery program presented by docents at the VMFA.

To Rhyme It is to Know It

Presenter: Celeste Johnston, VMFA Docent

It has been proven that rhyming verse helps people learn. Using works from the VMFA collection, this workshop will help docents learn how to use rhymes to better learn about and remember works of art.

The Writer's Eye

Presenters: Gay Frix and Ronny Waters, UVA Art Museum Docents

Now in its 20th year at UVA, this writer's contest has proved to be the greatest reason to have teachers bring their students to the Museum. UVA docents will demonstrate the process of presenting creative writing in reaction to works of art.