YOUR INFORMATION

Name ____________________________
School __________________________

WELCOME TO ART AND WRITING 6–8!

Art and Writing 6-8 is a middle school art and literacy program that brings together the visual and language arts. Through close looking, analysis, and a rich array of writing and art activities, students learn how to “read” a work of art. Three units present classroom lessons in English Language Arts, Social Studies, World Languages, and Art through engagement with artworks at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Each unit includes classroom lessons, an Art lesson, and a World Language lesson in French, Spanish, or Latin. Any school implementing the curriculum in their classrooms may request a free museum tour to expand the learning possibilities.

A NOTE ABOUT THE COVER ARTWORK

Roberto Matta Echauren’s Prescience from 1939 reflects on the cycle of life and its constant changes. Prescience is a poignant introduction to this program, fitting into all curricular themes. Stories are at the root of the Heroes and Hybrids unit, and Matta’s painting tells a fascinating visual tale. The painting’s landscape-inspired imagery connects to the People and Their Environments unit. But you'll find the painting featured in the final unit, We the People (American Identity). The Chilean-born artist completed the painting at a time of transition, having recently immigrated to New York from Paris, where he had been a vocal critic of the white supremacist Nazi Party. We hope that your students, facing their own important years of transition, consider this painting and others featured within this program as inspirations to look closer at their own worlds, speak up in their own ways, create powerful works of art, and write from the heart.

The curriculum was directed by Lindsey Fyfe and Johanna Miller, present and former School and Teacher Program Managers at the Wadsworth Atheneum, with guidance from Anne Butler Rice, Georgette Auerbach Koopman Director of Education, and Angela Parker, Docent & Tour Programs Manager. Educators Christi Moraga, Carrie Ricciardelli, and Anthony Roy wrote impactful lessons, and Jessica Blitzer, Sheri LaRowe Cooke, Jennifer Lazaroff, Adrienn Olmstead, Nectarios Platsis, and Christine Tocionis offered curricular steering. Thanks to all featured artists and artist estates. We are appreciative of all of our museum colleagues, with extra thanks to Stacy Pringle and Frank Mitchell, formerly of The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, and Brandy Culp, Aqua Drakes, Debbie Gaudet, Marisely Gonzalez, Courtney Hebert, Jama Holchin, Kim Hugo, Janna Israel, Jessica Kelley, Erin Monroe, Adria Patterson, Allen Phillips, Aviva Santopietro, and museum volunteer Barbara Greenbaum. We are indebted to the Wadsworth Atheneum Docent Council and many educators who provided critical evaluation of the program via piloting of lessons and tours. Finally, we thank Travelers for championing Art and Writing for middle school. We could not have created this resource without you all!
**PROGRAM STRUCTURE**
The program is made up of three themed units that are designed to align with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade instruction. You may complete one, two, or all three units. The themes are:

**SECTION 1** HEROES AND HYBRIDS

**SECTION 2** PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

**SECTION 3** WE THE PEOPLE (AMERICAN IDENTITY)

Each theme includes:
1. Classroom unit (three lessons)
2. One Art lesson
3. One World Language lesson
4. A museum tour at no cost *

Each lesson plan outlines time allotment, supplies, questions for guided looking, vocabulary, lesson extension options, worksheets, and other supplemental materials. Large format posters and digital imagery sets are for classroom use only.

**HOW TO USE THIS TEACHER RESOURCE**
This resource contains all the materials you will need to implement the Art and Writing program at your school. The curriculum allows flexibility in how, and at what pace, you structure the program. To deepen the program’s impact, it is our hope that teachers will work in partnership across middle school grade bands and teams so that students encounter content and museum artworks in multiple classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to modify lessons to specific student needs.

**STATE AND NATIONAL CURRICULUM STANDARDS ADDRESSED**
The objectives addressed in Art and Writing link to Common Core State Standards, the national curriculum guidelines adopted by the State of Connecticut, as well as the National Core Arts Standards established in 2014. Programs also link to the standards outlined in the Connecticut State Department of Education's Arts Curriculum Framework, the Social Studies Curriculum Framework, the National Core Arts Standards, and the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages. Specific standards are listed at the beginning of each lesson plan.

*When you are ready to book an accompanying Art and Writing museum tour at no cost, refer to the museum’s website at thewadsworth.org/education or reach us at (860) 838-4046. Please begin the Art and Writing program lessons in your classroom before booking a tour, and let us know which one of the three themes you’d like as a tour focus.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact:

**School and Teacher Programs**
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*This document is part of a larger art and literacy curriculum. Learn more at www.thewadsworth.org/education.*
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