

Lesson 2 Art for Everyone

Reading 1

Beyond the Gallery

Where do you go when you want to see art? The most obvious answer would be an art museum or gallery. But you can save yourself the trip by keeping an eye open for murals in your neighborhood. A mural is a largescale artwork that is typically painted directly onto a wall. Murals can be found in many different locations, including buildings, bridges, and even tunnels. They change ordinary spaces into attractive and dynamic environments. But there's more to murals than that — they are art for everyone.

Art in the Neighborhood

When you walk by Palisades Elementary School in California, you will encounter a large, colorful depiction of joyful children. A young girl wearing sunglasses is holding a pink kite with ribbons fluttering in the breeze. The boy next to the girl is smiling brightly as he flies his kite through the air. On the right side, another girl is running, with her hair floating cheerfully in the wind. As you take in the scene, it is impossible not to feel a sense of joy. The colors are bold and bright, and the children's faces are filled with excitement as they run toward a hopeful Bumblebeelovesyou, Lead the Way, 2022, California future. Isn't it wonderful to see a beautiful work of art in the middle of your day?

One of the greatest things about murals is that they are art for everyone. Unlike art in museums which seems exclusive, murals can be enjoyed by anyone taking a stroll, regardless of how much time or money they have. All you have to do is walk by and take in the beauty, culture, and inspiration of our everyday surroundings. Offering free and accessible ways to interact with art, murals remind us that art doesn't have to be confined within the walls of museums and galleries.

Art for All to Contribute to

When it comes to creating beautiful artworks, you may assume that it is the sole responsibility of artists. Murals, however, are a type of art that anyone can contribute to. Besides professional artists, murals can be created by a diverse group of individuals such as students, community members, or anyone with a passion for art! By working together to create a mural, people can foster a sense of community pride. The following case shows people who are engaging with art and making a positive impact on their community.

Dongpirang, a small village located in the coastal city of Tongyeong, was once a plain neighborhood full of old houses on narrow alleys. When the government decided to redevelop the area, the people of the village were in danger of losing their homes. In an attempt to save the village, concerned citizens reached out to the public for help in decorating their homes. The public joined hands with the villagers and painted the village walls, fences, stairs, and even water tanks with colorful murals. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the village was revitalized and transformed into a popular tourist attraction.

What makes Dongpirang more special is that it has opened its doors for everyone to contribute to making art. To maintain the village's beautiful appearance, the community holds a mural festival every two years to repaint the walls. This festival is open to the general public, not just artists, so anyone can participate. All you need is some creativity and a paint brush! Through the power of murals, Dongpirang has been able to create a beautiful and energetic space for all.

Art for People Anywhere in the World Until recently, it was difficult for people to enjoy murals in remote places in person. Thanks to technology, however, murals displayed on screens can be appreciated by millions around the globe without the need to travel. In many parts of the world, digital artworks are displayed on screens to convey a visual message and tell a powerful story to a larger audience.

David Hockney's digital painting of a sunrise is an excellent example. It is a two-and-a-half-minute video that expresses the beauty of nature with the changing light of day. The work was displayed on outdoor screens in major cities around the world such as London, New York, Seoul, and Tokyo. In the video, the sun slowly rises, casting light on a dark landscape. Then the yellow rays fill every corner of the screen to offer a message of hope to people all around the world. Digital murals like this bring art across borders and continents so that it can be appreciated by anyone, anywhere.

Whether they are found in busy city centers, small towns, or remote villages, murals serve as a vibrant reflection of the local community's identity. Murals have the power to go beyond cultural and geographic boundaries, and they inspire and engage people of all ages and backgrounds in meaningful ways. Ultimately, murals are for everyone, creating a more colorful and inclusive world for all.

Reading 2

What Does Music Look Like?

The lights come on. The beats of powerful drums fill the air. As the singer steps up to the microphone, the fans scream with their eyes sparkling with excitement. Wait. Who is that woman in the corner of the stage? She's not dressed like a band member. She is making gestures with her hands and body. That's Audrey, the sign language interpreter for the concert.

Eric: Hello, Audrey. Welcome to my show, Unsung Heroes. I'm Eric.

Audrey: I've never thought of myself as a hero, but thank you for having me.

Eric: Can you tell our viewers about your job?

Audrey: Sure. What I do involves helping people who are deaf or hard of hearing enjoy musical performances. Each summer, I travel the country and translate concerts into sign language.

Eric: Forgive my ignorance, but can people who can't hear well enjoy concerts?

Audrey: No need to apologize. Many people have asked me that. And I always answer, "Of course they can." People who are hard of hearing have a variety of hearing levels and can use hearing aids. Even deaf people who have lost most or all of their hearing can still feel the beat. With the help of an interpreter, they can see and experience the music in their own way.

Eric: Very interesting. What exactly do you interpret for them?

Audrey: Basically, I sign the words coming out of a singer's mouth. But that's not all. There are instruments, pitches, and noises to convey as well, so I show them through my body. It's very visual. For example, I play air guitar, or blow out my cheeks to express a lower pitch.

Eric: How do you prepare for concerts?

Audrey: I work closely with event organizers and do a lot of research in advance. I have to learn the lyrics of the artist's popular songs. Then I practice the sign language for the lyrics. I sometimes practice as much as the artist.

Eric: That must be a lot of work. What's the most challenging aspect of your job?

Audrey: Some songs are harder to translate than others. For example, rap concerts are always a challenge for me. Rappers often change the words or make new lyrics on the fly. I have to stay alert at all times.

Eric: I see. How do you feel when you are interpreting?

Audrey: Words can't describe how I feel when I see the joy on the faces of the people I sign for. It reminds me of the importance of accessibility and inclusion in all areas of life.

Eric: You're definitely a hero! It's encouraging to know that impairments can't stand in the way of enjoying music and life.