

One of my favorite things to do is to visit an art museum. Fortunately for us, many museums have opened their doors for free to the public...virtually. You are probably wondering, why are art museums important? Followed by the age-old question, why is art important? Let's talk about that last question first. Art is not just pretty pictures or sculptures. Art is a visual language and it tells a story. One picture can tell a whole story. My fourth graders may remember the artwork of "Judith Slaying Holofernes" and the cool story that went with it. You all tell us a story about your art. Often someone asks you, "Tell me about your picture." You go on to talk about kitties that shoot lasers with their eyes and transport their enemies to another land. You could talk about it for days! To go along with that, art is historical. We can tell what historical events were happening based on the title, date, and imagery presented. When we go to a museum, we will have a history of thousands of years right before our very eyes. Art helps us problem-solve in a couple of different ways. When we look at an artwork for the first time, we are trying to analyze and figure out what it is about. Additionally, when we make art, we are constantly trying to figure out the best possible solution to get our ideas across to the viewer. If we are sculpting or building something out of clay, we are trying to figure out how to construct it so it will stand, float, hold water, or fly. Art is cool, creative, and is only going to help you strengthen your problem-solving skills.

Now, onto museums. As I stated above, museums have a wide range of artworks by date and culture. You can be transported to Europe and then to Africa all in one day. Without museums, cultures and historical events would only be read in history books. That might get a little boring after a while. We can also learn about the artist, their techniques, and what motivated them to create their art. Lastly, museums let our imaginations soar. I can't tell you how many times I left a museum and was ready to make art.

Take a field trip below to one of the museums (there are a couple of zoos/aquariums in there too). Tell me what your favorite artwork was or favorite part of your virtual field trip. If you have any questions about a particular work, please let me know. I LOVE to tell stories about art...paintings and drawings in particular.

- ["Degas at the Opéra"](#) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington: View image gallery, audio tours, video | Purchase exhibition catalogue
- [National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum](#), Oklahoma City
- [#tussenkunstenquarantaine @ Instagram](#)
- [Barnes Foundation: Online classes](#)
- [Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden](#)
- [Clyfford Still Museum](#), Denver
- [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#), Bentonville, Ark.
- [Georgia Aquarium](#), Atlanta
- [Georgia O'Keeffe Museum](#), Santa Fe, N.M.
- [The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Art at Home](#)
- [Museum of Modern Art](#), New York City
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#), Washington, D.C.
- [The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: Nelson @ Home](#)
- [Shedd Aquarium](#), Chicago
- [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#), Richmond, Va.