



THE HISTORIC CAST HALL

AT THE INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE & ART

The Historic Cast Hall at the Institute of Classical Architecture has played host to the inspiration and learning of hundreds of students from schools around the tri-state area. Visits are designed in collaboration with educators from our partner schools, and thus are tailored to the curriculum students are currently engaging with. Here are some examples of previous bespoke programs, taught to students across disciplines, including history, Latin, studio art, art history, and the building arts.

Lasting Legacy- Classical Art and Architecture in the Renaissance

This lesson examines a cast from Ghiberti's doors from the Florentine Baptistery of Jacob and Esau.

Through close observation and open-ended discussion, students discover how the artist employed the geometry inherent in classical architecture to illustrate the dynamic narrative of the scene. Upon decoding the scene, students then interrogate why the Renaissance looked back to the classical world, and the artistic impact that ancient art and architecture had centuries after their creation.

Finally, a visiting artist leads a drawing exercise that outlines the steps of drawing from observation, and students created their own works focusing on one of the narrative vignettes of the Ghiberti door panel. 9-12th grade



In Living Color: Polychromy in the Ancient World and Beyond

This lesson examines how the Ancient World was in fact not the monochrome, but instead employed bright color to create art and architecture that would shock the average viewer with their vibrancy. First, students learn what types of colors were used in the ancient world. Using comparisons between works in the ICAA's collection students discuss the different impacts that monochrome versus polychrome finishes have on the viewer. Then, students will explore how polychromy was rediscovered, and examine works by 19th century through contemporary artists to see how artists have

remained inspired by this highly colorful version of the ancient world. Then, a visiting architectural instructor leads the students through an exercise where they draw from an ancient architectural cast, employing color in half the drawing. Finally, the students share their drawings, and discuss the different effects that color has on their work. 6-12th grade



Venus, Beauty, And Her Afterlives

Beginning with a close look at the ICAA's Cast of the Venus de Vienne, this lesson examines how classical artists sought to capture the goddess of beauty, and how her form ideally depicts that virtue. Students encounter the universality of that theme in art from the ancient world through comparisons of the Venus de Vienne to other crouching Venus sculptures in collections around the globe. Then, students are prompted to think about how these classical ideals about beauty and modesty have lasted in the art world, examining works by Botticelli, Titian, Manet, and Renoir. 11-12th grade

All Around Us: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Legacy of Classicism

This lesson focuses on the original home of the ICAA's cast collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and unpacks how and why classical aesthetics were employed in the creation of the 5th Avenue facade of this quintessential New York City building. Students will examine the details of the building to unpack how the architects and designers of The MET tailored the classical palette they were using to the specifics of the building they were creating. Finally, the lesson concludes with an examination of a recent contemporary installation of niche sculptures at The MET, leading students to consider how contemporary artists are reconsidering classical art and its history within their own work. 6-12th grade

The Shape of a Hero

Examining the Diadoumenos and the Gattamelata Horse in the ICAA's collection, this lesson examines how artists communicate their ideal of heroics and power while capturing motion, balance, and anatomy through the depiction of athletes and rulers. Students will look closely at the artistic techniques employed by the ancient sculptors, and will look to how this ideal form was pervasive throughout the ancient world and has persisted throughout art history, including in works by contemporary artists like Kehinde Wiley who prompt viewers to reexamine the image of a hero through a racially inclusive lens. 6-12th grade



Introduction to Visual Analysis: An Art Historian's Toolbox

Visual analysis, or the formal process of examining an object for the purpose of using it as evidence, is a foundational skill in the field of Art History. In this session, students will learn about the key elements of how to examine an object, learning how to recognize and characterize elements like texture, material, composition, and form using a cast in the ICAA's collection as a springboard for their investigations. Then, they will undertake a visual comparison, with the session concluding with a discussion on how their observations and comparisons can be placed with the historical context of the object that is relevant to their argument. This lesson intends to prepare students to use objects as primary source material in writing projects, and to understand how visual culture can serve as evidence. 9th-12th grade

Drawing from the Past: Principles of Greek Art and Architecture

This program aims to introduce students to the principles of art and architecture of Ancient Greece. Through close-looking, the students assess the Discobolus sculpture in the ICAA's collection, determining the goals of the artist to capture motion, balance, geometry, and anatomy in the depiction of the athlete. A visiting architect then draws the student's attention to the architecture of the ancient world, using column capitals and moldings from the collection to lead the students through the basics of drawing the architectural plan of the Parthenon, to demonstrate how those same ideas of motion, balance, and geometry were used in architecture as well as art. 6-9th grade

