

Minneapolis Institute of Art

# Fostering Empathy through the Visual Arts

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# Mia

# Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia)





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# Learning at Mia



Learning is a process centered on the learner that changes understandings and perspectives. Driven by curiosity, learning engages the senses, skills, feelings, and memories in making meaningful connections with others, objects, and their stories.

# Learning Theories

Transformational Learning

Critical Pedagogy

Growth Mindset



# Dialogic Teaching





**Minneapolis Institute of Art**

# Center for Empathy and the Visual Arts

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and 2018 Mia Gala funders

# Mia

# Mellon Foundation Research Project: Empathy and the Visual Arts

Explores the impacts of engagement with art in fostering empathy among a general museum audience as well as school-aged visitors

## Guiding Question:

-How does engaging with art foster empathy in individuals?

## Partners:

Berkeley Social Interaction Lab (BSI), under the direction of Dr. Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and the founding director of the Greater Good Science Center, and University of Minnesota's CAREI



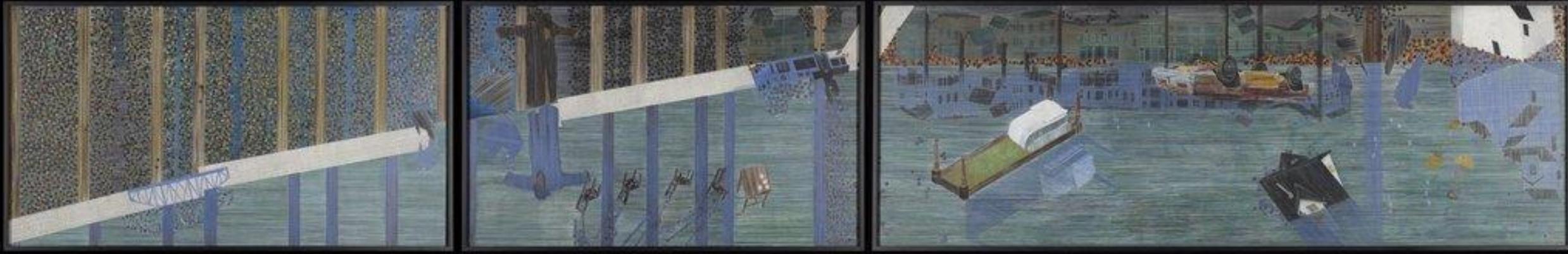
# Gallery Teaching

## Empathy through Constructed Stories

- Select an artwork
- Create a story about the person
- Share stories
- Unpack Stories
- Observe and question
- Personal reflection
- Discuss
- Impact



Sandy, 1946. Walt Kuhn, Oil on canvas, The John R. Vanderlip Fund 61.6



Siah Armajani, American (born Iran), 1939. *Mississippi Delta*, 2005-2006. Colored pencil on Mylar. Gift of Siah Armajani, 2010.100 a-c.

## Critical response:

1. Describe
2. Remember
3. Feel
4. Question
5. Speculate

Developed and refined by the Perpich Arts Center, Minnesota



Wendy Red Star, American, born 1981, Spring from *The Four Seasons* series, 2012.  
Archival pigment print on Museo silver rag.  
Bequest of Virginia Doneghy, by exchange, 2012.69.3

## Step-in, step-out, step-back

**Choose:** Identify a person or agent in the situation you are examining.

**Step Inside:** Given what you see and know at this time, what do you think this person might experience, feel, believe, or know?

**Step out:** What else would you like (or need) to learn in order to understand this person's perspective better?

**Step back:** Given your exploration of this perspective so far, what do you notice about your own perspective and what it takes to take somebody else's?

Harvard's Project Zero, "Global Thinking Routines"

# Museums Connect: Girls Design the World Building Green Communities with STEAM



American  
Alliance of  
Museums

# Girls Design the World: Prototypes



# Advocates for Human Rights: Poetry & Spoken Word



A detailed oil painting portrait of Martin Luther, showing him from the chest up. He has a serious expression, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a black cap and a black garment with a high collar. His hair is a reddish-brown color. The background is a textured, light greenish-blue.

# Martin Luther

## Art and the Reformation

Presented by



October 30–January 15

# Mia

# *Living Rooms:* Charleston Drawing Room



# *Living Rooms:* Charleston Dining Room



# *Art + Healing: In the Moment*



# ***Art + Healing* Reflect and Response Wall**



***When will the people who don't feel the weight of oppression wake up and use their power for good?***

***When will people finally figure it out? We are all humans! Respect for all people.***

***Forgive our silence. Show us how to show empathy and change behavior.***

***Teach my son to see the person, not the color.***

***I feel moved to tears, yet uplifted by this art.***

***Grow my understanding, empathize, and act.***

Thank you!

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