

# Ten Artists, Ten Lessons—and More!

- 1) Maria Sybilla Merian (1647-1717), German—
  - a. insect studies
  - b. cycles of life
  - c. scientific illustration and investigation
  
- 2) Margaret Mees (1909-1988), British—
  - a. botanical drawings of the Amazon  
[www.moonlightsys.com/themoon/flower.html](http://www.moonlightsys.com/themoon/flower.html)
  
- 2) John James Audubon (1785-1851), American—
  - a. bird studies in North America
  - b. binocular pictures
  - c. habitat studies
  
- 3) Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904), American—
  - a. animal studies (hummingbirds)
  - b. plant life
  - c. habitat studies
  
- 4) Henri Matisse (1869-1954), French—
  - a. leaf or underwater designs done with cut-outs of geometric (background) and organic (on top) shapes (underwater, leaves) on top (see *de la Mer*, *La Vis d*)
  - b. self-portraits of themselves in *The Purple Robe* (2-D or 3-D)
  
- 5) Henri Rousseau (1844-1910), French—

“Green is the color of life”

  - a. draw “What the lion is thinking”, based on *The Sleeping Gypsy* \*(see note at end of paper)
  - b. paint a jungle scene
  - c. create a jungle scene as seen through binoculars
  - d. create a multi-layered jungle scene with pastels on construction paper:  
9x12—draw line 2/3 of the way down, draw background above line  
3x12—draw line 2/3 of the way down, draw middle ground, trim top  
2x12—completely fill with foreground, trim top  
glue layers, or use spacers to make more 3-D
  
- 6) Piet Mondrian (1872-1944), Dutch—
  - a. glue black strips vertically and horizontally, add primary-colored squares and rectangles. To show contrast with his geometric style,
  - b. paint black **organic** line and fill spaces with primary (or secondary) colors
  - c. students identify his early and later works as representational, abstract, or non-representational (hold up cards)
  
- 7) Georgia O’Keeffe (1887-1986), American—
  - a. mix tints and shades
  - b. take digital images of real flowers close-up, crop, and paint
  - c. leaf images

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- 8) John Constable (1776-1837), British—
  - a. use pastels to create clouds or dramatic skies  
draw in landscape with pastels, or use construction paper for landscape
  - b. make small works
- 9) El Greco (1541-1614), Greek/Spanish—
  - a. create dramatic weather images, based on “View of Toledo”
- 10) Hiroshige (1797-1858), Japanese— / Pierre August Renoir (1841-1919), French—
  - a. draw/paint “a rainy day” based on the art of Hiroshige and Renoir (overlapping)
- 11) Claude Monet (1840-1926), French—
  - a. kindergarteners create Impressionist paintings in 3 stages:
    - i. use white, blue, pink for sky
    - ii. use dark and light green, yellow and pink for grass
    - iii. use dark and light green for trees
  - b. clay frogs—*Phillipe in the Garden of Monet*
- 12) Andy Goldsworthy (1956- ), British—

brainstorm how he might have created some of his works (like spiral icicles)

  - a. write poetry of his work
  - b. use descriptors to see if other students can guess which image they are describing (in teams)
- 13) Romare Bearden (1914-1988), American—
  - a. draw small scenes of their memories (or cut-and-paste to create objects)
  - b. create a collage with these images
- 14) Clara Peeters (1589-1657), Dutch—
  - a. create a still life, or a *vanitas*
- 15) Pierre August Renoir ( 1841-1919), French—
  - a. “Le Petit Bouquet”, paint small still life of vase of flowers
- 16) African-American Artists of the Civil War Period:
  - Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937) (family, post-Civil War, spiritual)
  - Edward Banister (1828-1901) (landscapes, esp. with cows)
  - Edmonia Lewis (1843-1911) (sculpture)
  - Robert Scott Duncanson (1817-1872) (classical landscapes, ruins)
- 17) Colonial-American Artists:
  - Joshua Johnston or Johnson (1765-1830) (portraits)
  - Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828) (portraits)
  - Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) and everyone in his family—17 children (portraits, still lifes, the start of American museums)—He may have taught Joshua Johnston (Johnson?)
  - Anna Claypoole Peale (1791-1878) (may be first full-time female artist in colonies)
  - Sarah Miriam Peale (1800-1885) (sister to Anna, also full-time artist), both members of the Pennsylvania Academy

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Use a timeline

Have basic bio info on the board

Have visuals

Have one or two interesting facts about them

\*The painting “The Sleeping Gypsy” was described by Henri Rousseau in a letter to a friend:

“A wandering gypsy who plays the mandolin, with her jar next to her (a vase containing drinking water) is deeply asleep, worn out from fatigue. A lion happens by, sniffs at her, and does not devour her. There is an effect of moonlight, very poetic. The scene takes place in a completely arid desert. The gypsy is dressed in oriental fashion.”

—What is a mandolin?

—What does fatigue mean?

—What does devour mean?

—What does arid mean?

—Why did he use the word oriental?

[www.artcyclopedia.com](http://www.artcyclopedia.com) (some sites are checked “Educational image use”—control-click (or right click) to save use shift-apple 3 or 4 to save screen, or use “print screen” and paste into document

[www.artchive.com](http://www.artchive.com)

[www.getty.edu/education](http://www.getty.edu/education) “Masterpiece of the Week” and “Art Scoops”

[www.humanitiesweb.org](http://www.humanitiesweb.org)