



Study Guide

ART OF CIRCUS:

A Living, Breathing Art Museum on Stage!

Thank you for downloading the Study Guide to go along with the performance of The Art of Circus presented by Enrichment Through the Arts. Please direct any questions or correspondence (letters to performers from staff and/or students) to Enrichment Through the Arts. Make sure you note what performance and we will make sure they get into the right hands.

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Show Overview

ART OF CIRCUS is a one-of-a-kind live performance where famous works of art come to life through breathtaking acrobatics, expressive dance, and vibrant visual design. Audiences will step inside masterpieces like Van Gogh's swirling *Starry Night*, explore Leonardo da Vinci's inventive mind, and see Andy Warhol's colorful pop art explode into motion.

With a live band performing an original score by Jesse Elder, this immersive experience blends fine art, music, and circus arts into a celebration of human creativity. Each act transforms the stage into a "living canvas," where art doesn't just stay on the wall—it leaps, spins, and soars through the air.

Learning Objectives

After experiencing the show, students will be able to:

- Identify famous artists and their signature styles.
 - Describe how movement, music, and visuals can bring still art to life.
 - Explain how different art forms (visual, musical, performance) can work together.
 - Discuss how creativity connects people across cultures and centuries.
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Key Vocabulary

- **Masterpiece** – A work of outstanding creativity or skill.
- **Choreography** – The planned movement in a dance or performance.
- **Acrobatics** – Skillful and daring physical feats, often involving balance and agility.
- **Pop Art** – An art movement that uses bold colors and imagery from popular culture.
- **Expression** – The way an artist communicates emotions or ideas.

Pre-Show Activities

a. Artist Match-Up

Show students images of paintings by Van Gogh, da Vinci, and Warhol. Discuss what makes each style unique.

b. Living Sculpture Game

In small groups, students freeze into “statues” representing an emotion or scene. Others guess what the pose is expressing.

c. Music Meets Art

Play a piece of music and have students draw what they feel or imagine while listening.

During the Show

Encourage students to notice:

- Which artists’ works are represented.
- How colors, shapes, and lighting create mood.
- How movement changes the meaning or feeling of a painting.
- How music and performance work together to tell a story.

Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. Which artwork or scene was your favorite? Why?
2. How did the performers bring the paintings to life?
3. Did the music change how you felt about the art? How?
4. Which artist’s style do you think would be most fun to turn into a performance?
5. How did seeing the art in motion help you understand it differently?

Extension Activities

a. Create Your Own “Living Canvas”

Students choose a famous painting and design a short skit, dance, or freeze-frame that brings it to life.

b. Artist Study Mini-Report

Research one artist from the show and present their style, famous works, and life story.

Curriculum Connections

- **Visual Arts:** Art history, color theory, artistic styles.
 - **Music:** How music influences emotion and storytelling.
 - **Physical Education/Dance:** Movement as a form of expression.
 - **Theater:** Stagecraft, set design, and performance integration.
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Reflection Worksheet

Name: _____

My favorite scene in *ART OF CIRCUS* was:

The artist whose work I enjoyed most was:

One thing I learned about art today is:

If I could bring any painting to life, it would be:

I would bring it to life by:

1. Artist Match Game

Draw a line to match the artist to their style or famous work.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Vincent van Gogh | A. Bright colors and repeated images from popular culture (<i>Marilyn Monroe</i> , soup cans) |
| 2. Leonardo da Vinci | B. Swirling skies and thick paint strokes (<i>Starry Night</i>) |
| 3. Andy Warhol | C. Renaissance inventor and painter (<i>Mona Lisa</i> , flying machines) |
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2. Vocabulary Scramble

Unscramble the words from the show:

1. aceprmeitse _____

2. phgyohorcare _____

3. bartsioacc _____

4. pap troa _____

5. sexperosin _____

3. “Living Canvas” Design

Choose one of these paintings:

- *Starry Night* by Van Gogh
- *Mona Lisa* by da Vinci
- *Campbell’s Soup Cans* by Warhol

Draw how you would bring it to life on stage using:

 Music

 Movement

 Colors & Costumes