

ART OF CIRCUS

A Living, Breathing Art Museum on Stage!

VISUAL ART + MUSIC + MOVEMENT + CIRCUS

A colorful teacher study guide for exploring how masterpieces leap, spin, and soar to life.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Thank you for downloading this study guide to accompany The Art of Circus, presented by Enrichment Through the Arts. These activities help students connect visual art, music, dance, theater, and creative movement before and after the performance.

Contact Enrichment Through the Arts

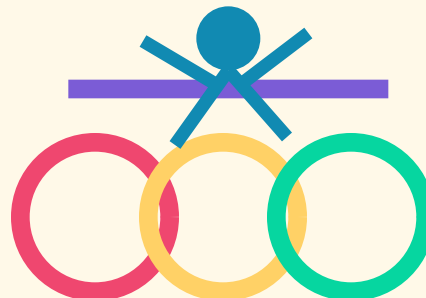
Questions and student letters are welcome. Please include the performance name so correspondence reaches the right performers.

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STEP INSIDE THE CANVAS!



SHOW OVERVIEW

Where masterpieces move

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 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 does not stay on the wall - it leaps, spins, and soars through the air.

How can a still painting become a moving performance?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

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 involving balance and agility.
Pop Art	An art movement using bold colors and popular-culture imagery.
Expression	The way an artist communicates emotions or ideas.

BEFORE THE SHOW

Explore • Imagine • Create

1. ARTIST MATCH-UP

Show students paintings by Van Gogh, da Vinci, and Warhol. Discuss the colors, shapes, subjects, and techniques that make each style unique.

2. LIVING SCULPTURE GAME

In small groups, freeze into “statues” representing an emotion or scene. Classmates guess what each pose expresses.

3. MUSIC MEETS ART

Play a piece of music and have students draw the colors, lines, shapes, or images they imagine while listening.

MY MUSIC-INSPIRED SKETCH

Listen carefully. Draw whatever the music makes you see or feel.

DRAW HERE





DURING THE SHOW

Be an Art-and-Circus Detective!

ARTISTS

Which artists and artworks are represented?

COLOR & SHAPE

How do colors, shapes, costumes, and lighting create mood?

MOVEMENT

How does motion change the meaning or feeling of a painting?

MUSIC

How do the musicians and performers work together to tell a story?

STAGE MAGIC

What surprised you about the set, acrobatics, or visual design?

LOOK closely. LISTEN carefully. NOTICE how every art form works together.

QUICK NOTES



AFTER THE SHOW

Talk About the Living Canvas

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

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:

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Create your own masterpiece in motion

CREATE YOUR OWN “LIVING CANVAS”

Choose a famous painting. Design a short skit, dance, acrobatic sequence, or freeze-frame that brings it to life.

Painting:	
Music or sounds:	
Movement:	
Colors and costumes:	
Beginning, middle, and end:	

ARTIST STUDY MINI-REPORT

Research one artist from the show. Present the artist’s life story, signature style, and famous works. Include one surprising fact!

My artist: _____

ARTIST MATCH & WORD PLAY

Test your art detective skills

1. ARTIST MATCH GAME

Write the correct letter next to each artist.

___ Vincent van Gogh	A. Bright colors and repeated popular images - Marilyn Monroe and soup cans
___ Leonardo da Vinci	B. Swirling skies and thick paint strokes - Starry Night
___ Andy Warhol	C. Renaissance inventor and painter - Mona Lisa and flying machines

2. VOCABULARY SCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word from the show.

1. aceprmeitse	_____
2. phgyohorcare	_____
3. bartsioacc	_____
4. pap troa	_____
5. sexperosin	_____

Bonus: Use one vocabulary word in a sentence.

LIVING CANVAS DESIGN

Turn a famous painting into a stage spectacular!

Choose *Starry Night* by Van Gogh, *Mona Lisa* by da Vinci, or *Campbell's Soup Cans* by Warhol. Draw how you would bring it to life using music, movement, colors, costumes, and circus skills.

MUSIC	MOVEMENT	COLORS & COSTUMES

DRAW YOUR LIVING CANVAS HERE

Give your performance a title: _____



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The arts connect every kind of learning

VISUAL ARTS

Art history, color theory, artistic styles, composition, and visual expression.

MUSIC

How rhythm, melody, and sound influence emotion and storytelling.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & DANCE

Balance, coordination, movement, and the body as a form of expression.

THEATER

Stagecraft, set design, costumes, lighting, character, and performance integration.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Observation, descriptive language, discussion, reflection, research, and presentation.

**ART DOESN'T JUST HANG ON A WALL - IT LEAPS, SPINS,
AND SOARS!**

**CREATE • MOVE • IMAGINE •
DISCOVER**