HELLO KOREA!

ART FORM FOCUS: Traditional Korean Paintings, Digital Media and Animation

KEY MESSAGE: What happens when an artist combines traditional paintings and digital media?

ABOUT THE SHOW:
The present meets the past in this wonderful exhibition introducing children to the beauty of traditional Korean paintings from the Joseon Dynasty using digital media and technology. Internationally acclaimed Korean media artist Lee Lee-Nam has re-imagined Korean masters’ works, bringing them to life through the use of animation, sound and pop iconography. The intermingling of traditional and contemporary art creates a novel experience for children as they observe artworks using multiple senses. After you’ve discovered the exhibition, children can create their own mixed-media collage artwork in the “Little Big Masters” workshop.

Learning Activities

Investigate: Hello Korea
Explore with the children their knowledge of Korea and its culture.

- Locate Korea on a map and explain that it is divided into two states; North and South Korea.
- Explain to children that 73 million people speak the main language Korean and introduce the word for hello, anyoung (pronounce ahn-YOH), which is the most casual form of greeting someone.
- Select and share some images of Korea from Lonelyplanet.com or a similar website.
- Ask if any of the children have eaten Korean food, especially the main dish kimchi.
- Check if any of the children can do taekwondo, the national sport. Ask them to demonstrate some steps.
- Discuss the recent success of the Gangnam Style video, performed by the K-popper, Psy, with older children.

Investigate: Old Masters

- Explain that this term refers to an esteemed, significant and established artist from past centuries. In this exhibition we see paintings from the old masters of Korea in the Joseon Dynasty. Including Kim Hong-do and Shin Saimdang.
- View the famous paintings A Cat and a Butterfly and Two Men Wrestle by Kim Hong-do. Explain that scenes from nature and everyday life are important in paintings from this period. (See Top Ten Famous Korean Paintings www.akorra.com) How is the cat captured? Discuss the different characters in Two Men Wrestle.

Play Animated Characters

- In groups: Ask children to create a gallery of cartoon / animated characters. Each child is to create a frozen statue of a different character. E.g. Bugs bunny, Spongebob, Buzz Lightyear, Lisa and Bart Simpson. Groups to display to the class and children to identify the characters.
Create Art works with the four gracious plants

- Gather examples of the four gracious plants. Pictures or images of plum-blossoms, orchids, chrysanthemums and bamboo.
- Explain that the plants are connected to the seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter and the idea of an everlasting spirit or a classical scholar.
- Children to draw in any colour their version of one of the four gracious plants.
- Do we have plants in Australia that are representative or symbolic of our land?

Play with animation

- Explain that Lee Lee–Nam is a media artist and uses a variety of technological, computer and digital tools to create his art. This can include animation.
- Watch some animations with the children e.g. Toy Story, Finding Nemo, or Chicken Run. Pause on an image and explain that this is a photo of a drawing or model and the drawing is moved or changed a little and then another photo taken, to create the effect of movement.
- Create thaumatropes with the children. Provide stiff cardboard cut into circles, children put in small holes at the opposite sides for the strings or rubber bands to be placed and tied in tightly.
- Children to draw two different images on either side, that are connected e.g. water from a kettle being poured and a cup on the other side.
- The cards are then flipped quickly and the images combine. Explain that this was one of the first types of animations and was a popular toy.

Create and play with new and old images

Children will create freeze frames that use images from famous paintings as a starting point and add objects, artefacts, or characters from contemporary life. A freeze frame is a still physical image presented by an individual or a group.

- Gather a collection of famous old paintings from Europe and Australia e.g. The Mona Lisa (Leonardo da Vinci) or an Australian traditional painting The Lost Child by Fredrick Mc Cubbin.
- Encourage the children to look closely and identify the mood and feelings in the paintings.
- In groups: students to recreate the picture with their bodies. They can be the characters in the paintings or inanimate objects or aspects of nature.
- Students then to consider what they want to add from their lives into the painting. A character like a superhero or a famous person or another character.
- Display to class and discuss the new meaning created. What new understandings have been created?
- Children to draw the images created and add any further ideas.

Other Learning Resources

Read more about Korea:
Tiger, Frogs and Rice Cakes by Soma Ham Stickler (A book of Korean proverbs.)
Count Your Way Through Korea by James Haskins

Discover online
To find out more about the traditional Old Masters of the Joseon period, visit the Gallery section of the Leeum Samsung Museum of Art in Seoul South Korea.
For further examples of Lee Lee-Nam’s work and to learn more about his approach to creating art
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA8oDg3YJhc
To view more contemporary and media art works from Asia explore the White Rabbit Gallery in Sydney.
www.whiterabbitgallery.com

Acknowledgments
Adrienne Jones
Education Queensland