

Creating Artful Thinkers – Transforming Research into Practice, Onsite to Online Learning

Presenters:

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Abstract:

National Gallery of Art educators Julie Carmean and Sara Lesk propose presenting about their process of transforming research into practice through creating the National Gallery's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), specifically for K-12 educators, using the pedagogy of Harvard's Artful Thinking Routines and the National Gallery's art collection. This free, international, online learning experience aims to democratize the opportunity for teachers to bring critical thinking through art to their students around the world.

For over ten years, Sara and Julie have applied Artful Thinking routines to the National Gallery's onsite multiple-visit program, Art Around the Corner, for local Washington, D.C. students. In a 2012 study, museum learning researchers Randi Korn & Associates found that students in the program, who were regularly engaged in Artful Thinking routines with art, were observing, describing, and reasoning with evidence at significantly high levels, and recommended spreading the pedagogy to classroom teachers through professional development. For the last five years, Art Around the Corner has hosted a four-part professional development course, "Teaching Thinking to Integrate Art and Support Literacy," modeling thinking routines with art and supporting teachers in the implementation of those routines with art in their classrooms. Teachers who participated in the course have given strongly positive feedback through the years and have repeatedly requested the creation of teaching videos that model the routines, for their own reference and to share with colleagues who cannot attend the course. Based on this feedback, Sara and Julie began to investigate the possibility of serving a wider educator audience and adapting the course to an online format. After thorough investigation of online learning options, they decided a MOOC was best suited to the Gallery's resources at this time. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, they are consulting with Deb Howes, an independent museum and learning technologist who produced MOOCs for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and collaborating with Smithsonian Enterprises production and design team, to develop a series of instructional videos, interactives, discussions, and assignments to support an online learning experience about art and thinking routines.

In this presentation, Julie and Sara will lead participants in a combined onsite/online demonstration of one of their MOOC modules by, first, engaging with a work of art, using an Artful Thinking routine; second, watching a produced video of students responding to the same work, using the same routine as participants; and third, discussing the experience and the

documentation of student learning, as would happen on a discussion forum. The presenters will then invite participants to give actionable feedback to course creators. Overall, we will consider the throughlines: How do we develop mindfulness and thinking dispositions to learn? How do neuroscience, cognitive development theories, and the arts influence pedagogical practices from infancy through adulthood? How can cultural and artistic expressions enhance and elevate our shared human experience and identities? This presentation is relevant for anyone interested in thinking routines, arts integration, and online learning, regardless of level of experience or background in these areas.

Example of Prototype Video:

<https://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/teachers/art-around-the-corner.html>

Key Words:

Artful Thinking, routines, global, art, online, teachers, Professional Development, experience, pedagogy, practices