

The Importance of Teaching Art to Your Child

1. Art magnifies the handiwork of our God, and His merciful blessings in allowing and equipping human beings to create and imagine beautiful things!

- a. "In the beginning, **God created....**" *Genesis 1:1*
- b. "See the Lord, I have called by name **Bezalel**, the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with the spirit of God, with intelligence, with knowledge, and all craftsmanship to devise **artistic designs**, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting and carving wood, and for every craft." *Exodus 31:1-3*
- c. For more on Bezalel see: *Exodus 25, Exodus 31: 1-11, Exodus 35: 30-34, 2 Chronicles 1:3-7*
- d. **Spiritual gifts:** *Exodus 35: 30-33- Craftsmanship*

2. Unfortunately, we can't all be as quickly gifted as Bezalel was. Art takes time to mature and grow in each one of us. There are stages each of us have to go through in order to achieve and sometimes surpass expectations. Understanding these guidelines have helped me to be a better teacher, and I hope that they will give you some insight as well into your child.

- a. **The Scribble Stage-** (1-3 years old) The pure enjoyment of making marks.
- b. **The Preschematic Stage-** (3-4 years old) Where children begin to see connections to their physical world in the shapes that they draw.
- c. **The Schematic Stage-** (5-6 years old) At this stage, children assign objects to their shapes and develop a clear understanding of importance- some shapes are larger and more important. The ground and sky are drawn and objects are placed on the ground rather than floating in space.
- d. **The Dawning of Realism-** (7-9 years old) At this age, children become more critical of their artwork. They are very creative and innovative. There is overlapping, foreground, middle ground, and background in their drawings. They also may become easily frustrated when what they see in their mind is not easily transferred onto paper.
- e. **Pseudo-Naturalistic Stage-** (10-13 years old) The use of value and light is very apparent in their drawings, and they are often very critical of their own work. Success is determined by realism. It is exceptionally important to encourage them, or they will give up on art entirely.
- f. **The Decision Stage-** (13-16 years old) At this stage, those who continue to draw will want more art classes, instruction books, and videos to make their art better. They have

more of a desire to explore with different art materials. As a teacher, I try to find what the child is excited about, or what is new in the art field, and introduce them to it.

3. Art is a motivator, it inspires, uplifts, develops “artistic confidence”, and encourages people of all ages to have trust in their creative abilities to express themselves through imagination by using various mediums. It develops persistence by seeing a project through from start to finish.

- a. ***The Definition of “Artistic Confidence”***- Becoming confident in one’s own talents and abilities as an artist. It is an ability to love ourselves, who God made us to be, and our art.
- b. In reference to artworks and artists, 1 Timothy 4:4 states - *“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is to be received with thanksgiving.”* Therefore since God created the artist and everything He creates is good, shouldn't we receive the art work presented by the Lord's good work, the artist, be accepted as for what the artist meant it to be. Good.

4. Art enhances other areas of study. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, History, Literature, & taking accurate notes for it all.

- a. ***S.T.E.M.*** – Science - color theory, artists who have contributed to scientific studies - DaVinci (research on the human body), Samuel Morse (inventor of Morse code), John James Audubon (Illustrator and cataloger of Americas Bird life), Alfred L. Copley (aka Alcopley; properties in blood), Maria Sibylla Merian (chartered the course for modern ecology), Rafel Lozano-Hermmer (powers electrical art with heartbeats and fingerprints), Anna Atkins (photographed the world’s sea algae). ***Technology*** - Graphic Arts - design, signs, advertising, photography, video game design, plus more! ***Engineering*** - Architecture, construction, invention, innovation, even in driving we use spatial relations. ***Math*** - MC Escher Geometry, 2-D, & 3-D shapes, symmetry, asymmetry, Matte cutting, framing, measuring art work, still life, and perspective. Mnemonics, as a way of studying, is also art.
- b. ***History and literature***- Depictions of battles, portraits, and landmarks would be lost to us if it were not for individuals gifted with the skill to draw the scenes for us today. Artists like Peter Paul Rubens, Winslow Homer, Andy Warhol, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Eugene Delacroix, Pablo Picasso, Francisco Goya, Sir Frank Dicksee – their works are among the masterpieces.
- c. ***Art helps artists to pay attention***- Often visual learners (artists included) can pay attention to a speaker, or a teacher, if a writing implement is in their hands. As teachers we find their notebooks, school work, even worksheets passed in with doodles all over them. It’s a sign that their mind is working to hear the notes in another way. To help you and your student, may I suggest “sketch noting”. This organized way of drawing, notetaking, and compartmentalizing helps a student to write what’s necessary, and

balance the word ratio with “drawing letters”. See “*The Sketchnote handbook- The Illustrated Guide to Visual Notetaking*” by Mike Rohde.

- d. **Art is a Timeline-** Each art piece is depicting a moment in history, and in that moment, the artist is telling us so much. Art allows a form of picture language. We need to be the ones to look further. Ask yourself, and your student the following questions. *What was the year it was completed? What materials were used? Where it was done? What was going on during the artist’s lifetime that would cause this work? Are there any allegories, stories, or statements with the work?*

5. Art Appreciation challenges our preconceived notions of beauty and helps us see the world as God created. It offers an opportunity of growth for each of us to understand the heart and soul of the artist and their completed work.

- a. Allow yourself to walk through every section of an art museum and develop an understanding of how and why that art work was created. Use the placards on the sides of the paintings.
- b. A good suggestion would be to walk through an art museum with an artist, listen to how they explain an art piece that is challenging. When we walk through a museum these vulnerable artists are putting it all out there. Some admitting it all.
- c. This verse to me is how God has created us all. In essence, He has drawn a portrait of each one of us. *“I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness, I have **drawn** you” Jeremiah 31:3. This is my Life Verse, and the verse for my art studio.*

55 Careers for Anyone Interested in Visual or Fine Arts

Media & Commercial Arts - The following careers are possibilities for anyone who is interested in digital art, graphics, and using technology (computer, scanners, cameras, and editing software) to create art:

Graphic designer *Font designer*
Fashion photographer *Web designer*
TV Graphics designer *Animator*
Special effects artist

Arts Management - The following careers are geared toward anyone interested in the business side of the visual arts, including museums, restoration, organizations and firms:

Art auctioneer *Art restorer*
Art gallery owner *Art consultant*

Fine Arts- The following visual arts careers are for those who simply create fine art on their own, usually working in their private studios, with the goal of exhibition and sale of their work:

Sculptor *Ceramic artist*
Textile artist *Printmaker*
Painter / Artist-in-residence

Performing Arts - The following careers are possibilities for anyone interested in theater or film work, either in front of or behind the camera, on stage or behind the curtains:

Costume designer *Choreographer*
Film director *Set designer*
Make-up artist *Dance instructor*
Actor

Art Trades - The following visual arts careers are jobs in which one can make a solid living, after learning the specific skills of the trade:

Baker/culinary artist *T-shirt designer*
Tattoo artist *Glassblower*
Sign maker *Florist*
Jeweler *Police sketch artist*
Hairstylist *Mosaic artist*
Stained-glass artist

Editorial Art - The following visual art job positions are similar to the careers in the Media Arts. In the Editorial Art field, however, these artists either write about art for print, or are given assignments to work for print production:

Art critic *Advertising designer*
Film critic *Greeting card designer*
Art historian *Cartoonist*
Book illustrator *Arts editor*
Comic book artist *News photographer*
Medical illustrator

Professional Arts - The following careers are for anyone who wants to work as a licensed professional within the arts:

School art teacher
Art therapist

Design Arts - Love design more than Fine Art? These careers are possibilities for anyone who is interested in design work:

Furniture designer *Packaging designer*
Landscape designer *Product designer*
Architect *Automobile designer*
Interior designer *Fashion designer*