TABLEAUX VIVANTS

Art | English Language Arts | Physical Education

Additional curricular outcomes, artwork dependent: Social Studies

Look Closely

Stop and quietly look at this artwork for at least one full minute. Do not look at the title or artist of this artwork until the end.

- What do you notice?
- Use your viewfinder to help focus on any parts of the artwork that make you curious.
- Imagine you are inside the artwork. What can you hear and smell?

Questions

- What is the artist trying to convey in this artwork?
- Do the colours have special meaning?

Learn More

Tableaux vivants, which translates to "living pictures" in French, were an extremely popular form of entertainment during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). They are usually a static, silent scene where one or more people recreate a work of art, an historical event, or a story, sometimes with costume. This activity is especially helpful for students who learn through movement.

Activity

Materials: printed artwork(s). Optional: costumes and props.

- Split your class into 4-5 equal groups. You can decide if each group will get the same or different artworks.
- Once they have had time to interpret the artwork, students must recreate their interpretation using themselves as the medium.
- Students have the option to present the artwork as they have interpreted it.

1. Take time for each group to present their tableau vivant.
2. After the presentations, discuss what the group discovered about the work of art. Did it change as they went though the process of figuring out their tableau vivant?

Share!

Be sure to take photos! You can share your tableaux vivants with us at Glenbow: schoolprograms@glenbow.org.

Additional Questions and Thought Starters

- How do artists portray emotion and feeling in their artworks?
- What do you notice about how the artist arranged the different elements? Is there a part that stands out to you?
- How might the artwork be connected to bigger stories about the world and our place in it?