



Crystal Bridges
Museum of American Art

Student-Led Tour

Audio Guide Transcript

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Track 1: Conclusion to the Student-Led Tour

Introduction to the Student-Led Tour

Welcome to Student-Led Tour

NARRATOR: Welcome to the Crystal Bridges Student-Led Audio Tour! On this tour you will experience works of art through the perspective of a fourth-grade class. Cecil-Floyd Elementary students from Joplin, Missouri took part in a Crystal Bridges in the Classroom Residency program during fall 2021 in which they used works of art from Crystal Bridges collection to further their understanding of Colonial America. The residency concluded with students writing their own interpretations to artworks which were then recorded.

NARRATOR CONTINUES: All the works of art on this tour are connected to the idea of Colonial America in some way, whether the art was made during that period, or through the lens of contemporary artists responding to the lasting effects that the colonial period had on groups of peoples.

This tour will offer a chance to see how the next generation of students are interpreting the story of America and even offer a glimpse of how they hope to move forward in continuing to write their part in this story with hopefulness and positivity.

[End of Stop]

***We the People*, Nari Ward**

Raylee Reponds to *We the People*

RAYLEE GAMMILL: Different colors, many sizes, everyone is different. Be you, white or black, that is that. *We the People*, you probably have different shoe laces from the person on your left [pause] or right. [Pause] *We the People*, we are strong people, creative people, smart people and amazing people. We are all different in our own ways. You're awesome, you are you, that's good. Be yourself, no one can change who you are.

[Pause]

RAYLEE CONTINUES: I'm only 10 years old and I already know, I am who I am. No one can change you. You're an awesome person, keep on going. You're changing the world, keep doing that. That's awesome, and everyone can do it. Get out there, be yourself, that's all that matters. You're beautiful, it's okay to make mistakes. Don't try to be other people, you are you, don't change that. There is a lot of people in the world, but none of them are as unique as you. We are all different in our own ways. We are different by our colors, shapes, sizes, and our special features. Be who you are.

[End of Stop]

Winter Scene in Brooklyn, Francis Guy

Lily Responds to *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*

LILY WEBB: What I see in this painting is the clouds.

In the horizon, might be some mountains. On the right, it looks like there are less people and people are working more than the people on the left.

[Pause]

It looks like it might be winter because there's snow and people have warm clothing. And I think the artist put everything where it is to kind of show us how people's lives are at the time of the painting.

[Pause]

LILY CONTINUES: This painting makes me feel happy but sad, because if you think about it, there are people working hard, but on the other side, everyone is talking. And the people that are working might get very little pay, [pause] and the people talking might have high paying jobs.

I think people should see this artwork to see what the artist sees, to step into a painting, to be in someone else's shoes. I think this painting brings a big message to people. And the painting that I am talking about is *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*. There are a lot of details that I don't have time to finish, but I would point out the ladders on the houses.

[End of Stop]

Indians of Virginia, James Woolridge

Brie Responds to *Indians of Virginia*

BRIE WILSON: This artwork is a painting of the Native American tribe. I think this painting is very pretty. This painting makes me feel calm and in peace. I also like how they are together, and some of them are sitting by the fireplace. There is water and mountains in the background. I think this artist should not have painted the Native Americans like this because the artist did not know what they ever looked like.

[End of Stop]

heather ahtone, Senior Curator, First Americans Museum, Oklahoma City, OK, Citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Will Wilson

Alanya Responds to Three Will Wilson Photographs

ALANYA HARRIS: The colors of these paintings are very detailed and looks like water is dripping down the paintings. The fact that the artist let them be who they are is very kind and thoughtful. The lady on the left corner, she looks very proud to be who she is and beautiful. I love the way that the man in the middle, he looks like he's a fierce and confident man.

Furthermore, I love the man on the right, very detailed. I love how the artist took their time off and to do these paintings. These paintings are the best detailed art I've ever seen.

[Pause]

ALAYNA CONTINUES: It probably took a lot of time. And if I could ever see this artist, I would thank him for making these paintings. I also love the fact that in the back of the people, the background is blurry and I would love to see this artist sometime. I would love if my neighbor would make something like this, because he's an artist, but thankfully he made me a painting for me personally. I like that as a little girl, I like how they don't smile and look very fierce. I love this artist and the way these paintings look.

[End of Stop]

***heather ahtone, Senior Curator, First Americans
Museum, Oklahoma City, OK, Citizen of the
Chickasaw Nation, Will Wilson***

Jonathan Responds to Three Will Wilson Photographs

JONATHAN PETERSON: The colors really affect how I see the picture because he makes these photos look a lot older than they really are. [Short pause]

These photos were taken sometime between 2017 and 2019. It makes me feel like these three people are in the room with me, even though they are in the picture. Will Wilson didn't make them wear what he wanted but instead let them choose what explains them truthfully. These photos tell us to express ourself, truthfully, and to be yourself without lying. He wants you to live your life how you want and not how other people want you to.

[Pause]

JONATHAN CONTINUES: These photographs really explain how to show yourself and be who you want to be. It shows that you are you and don't try to be someone that you aren't.

[End of Stop]

***heather ahtone, Senior Curator, First Americans
Museum, Oklahoma City, OK, Citizen of the
Chickasaw Nation, Will Wilson***

Kenley Responds to Three Will Wilson Photographs

KENLEY RUIZ: This work of art is very unique. Why you might ask. Will Wilson would let them bring whatever they wanted, wear whatever they wanted.

[Pause]

I think this is probably my favorite art at crystal bridges. Another thing I personally love about this art is how photos look black and white.

KENLEY CONTINUES: Some details about them I noticed that the first portrait she has some sort of beautiful necklace/beads. I also notice her pretty hair. I also love the style. Her face shows it seems like a story like her past. The next one is detailed as well.

[End of Stop]

***Landscape*, Robert Duncanson**

Emma Responds to *Landscape*

EMMA RAMEY: When I first saw this painting, I felt calm. This painting has something about it to me. The setting, water, trees, it's beautiful. The setting with the sunrise is beautiful. It's magical. It has people on boats with rows on the water. The water shines in a way that makes it special. The trees are like a copper color. It looks peaceful and beautiful. The rocks are a beautiful gray and brown. [Pause] The water is orange, light blue and pink and brown. The light on the water is in the perfect spot. The mountains are so elegant and beautiful.

EMMA CONTINUES: I've seen a lot of paintings, but this one is just beautiful and so peaceful. I do not dislike anything about this painting. This painting is called *Landscape*. I hope that you love this painting as much as I do.

[End of Stop]

Garbage Man, John Biggers

Breklyn Responds to *The Garbage Man*

BREKLYN ELLIOT: I see a black man who looks homeless and is trying to sell things to get money for food and maybe a house. It looks like he may live in the alleyway he is in right now. And it looks like he is looking around for other things or for different people to sell things to. It would probably smell weird, but maybe a bit fruity because I can see in one box, there are fruits and veggies, and I can see a locked box in the background.

BREKLYN CONTINUES: I feel like you should look at it because it can be an inspiration to other people and it is different to other people and it can make different inspirations to different people and looks like he is in a trashy alleyway. It looks like a lot of people throw out a lot of things that he is collecting.

[End of Stop]

Untitled (Abstraction), Felrath Hines

Julie Responds to *Untitled (Abstraction)*

JULIE GLENN: I think this painting is very abstract. If I went in this painting, I would hear, [pause] well, I wouldn't really hear stuff. But I would imagine a ball hopping on every colored platform. Every platform would make a unique sound. The blue platform would make a high pitched sound. The orange and black platform would make a deep sound. The green will make a deep sound then a high pitched sound. The rest of the colors will make a deep, high, deep sound. So, the ball hops on the platforms, it will make a song.

[Pause]

JULIE CONTINUES: If I describe this art piece to a friend, I would say this painter went a little crazy. A lot of people don't think like me, so I would say it looks like colorful sections. If I would try to get someone to look at this painting, I would say that, "You should look at this painting because the colors can make you think a certain way." This painting is different. That's one reason why I like this painting.

[End of Stop]

***Untitled (Abstraction)*, Felrath Hines**

Tobias Responds to *Untitled (Abstraction)*

TOBIAS THERMAN: The colors catch my attention, and the colors are bright. It makes me feel happy.

When I look at it, it looks a little like colorful electric. It gives me a energy boost. If I was in the weird world, I think on one side it would feel cold and the other would feel warm because there is warm colors and cold colors. It has a zing to it.

[End of Stop]

Indian Land #4, Fritz Scholder

Korben Responds to *Indian Land #4*

KORBEN URTON: The Native American is riding a horse into the unknown. The blue in the piece represents the sadness that the British brought to Native Americans. Fritz Scholder is the artist of this piece. There were many tribes of the Native Americans. There were the plains tribe, the forest tribe, and even the arctic tribe. Most of the piece is abstract, but the abstract has a sad meaning towards Native Americans. The color represents that there were happiness, but British were bringing thunderstorms and bad things to the United States.

[End of Stop]

***Our Town*, Kerry James Marshall**

Evvy Responds to *Our Town*

EVY KEMMERLY: The artist put the yellow ribbons on the tree to make a statement that there should be peace to everyone. The kids are biking and running down the street in the neighborhood to show that they can do things too. As they're running down the street and as their mama is waving goodbye, four blue birds come flying in with white ribbons in their beak to show that the kids are okay and that the rights are getting better. The way the artist has painted in the grass on the left is very different, but it looks good. So even if something is different, it is beautiful.

EVY CONTINUES: This painting makes me feel that it is okay to be different and that you shouldn't try to blend in with the crowd. You should be yourself and not hide it. It also makes me feel that nobody should look at you funny. This painting also makes me feel that if you live in a town or city or a neighborhood that is against who you are, that you should not care and not blend in. You should go out and not be worried about people criticizing you or your family, because if they do, you can stand up to them and say you're not changing. It also makes me feel that it's not only your town, it's our town.

[Pause]

EVY CONTINUES: I think people should see this painting so it might change their perspective of how they feel about different people and change their perspective on say, it's your town and not our town. I love this painting and it's a great painting.

[End of Stop]

Portrait of a Florentine Nobleman, Kehinde Wiley

Landon Responds to *Portrait of a Florentine*

Nobleman

LANDON SANTIZO: I see a woman that's standing in a lot of flowers, with blue fingernails. I see a woman with a pink dress. I see a woman posing like she's a star. I see a woman being confident. I see a girl with her face expression thinking she's the boss, no one can stop her. I see a woman with high heels that's dressed good. I see a woman being responsible and courteous. I see a woman being respectful. I see a woman getting painted on a portrait. I see a woman that's wealthy. I see a woman making me confident. I see a woman making me responsible. I see a woman making me think more about this portrait. I see a woman that loves tattoos.

LANDON CONTINUES: I feel when I see this portrait calm, happy, and making me feel like I'm the boss, no one can stop me from making my dream come true.

[Pause]

When I see this, it makes me feel courteous and wondering about life more. I see a woman making her dream come true. I feel when I see this, that I'm really smart. [Pause] I feel when I see this painting that I can do anything that I want to do in life. I feel when I see this painting that she can do anything in life, then so can we. I see a woman getting sucked into flowers. I see a woman feeling flowers like she met them and can talk to them.

LANDON CONTINUES: I feel when I see this, that I'm in a whole world of flowers. When I see each flower, because every flower's different, it reminds me of everybody in the whole world is different. That makes the world special and unique.

[End of Stop]

Conclusion

Conclusion to the Student-Led Tour

NARRATOR: As artists continue to create art as a response to our history and our present, we also continue to interpret it ourselves. We all have the opportunity to see what is before us however we choose, and these interpretations are always changing. Having a chance to see works of art through the eyes of someone else can help further our own understanding and give insight into other possible ways of seeing and thinking. We hope the voices on this tour added to your experience with these works of art, and that you were even perhaps inspired to share your own interpretations with others.

[End of Stop]