

dallas **contemporary**

Art Think

What is Art Think™?

Art Think is an innovative, outreach art education program created by Dallas Contemporary. Art Think allows students to examine and share observations on art, while laying a foundation for lifelong appreciation of the visual arts. There are seven total sessions; six being in your classrooms, with the seventh as on-site visit to Dallas Contemporary.

The goals of Art Think:

1. To teach students how to look at and talk about contemporary art.
2. To help students take the process of creative thinking into their everyday lives
3. To teach students to respect each others' different points of view.

What takes place during a typical Art Think session?

Each session begins with an overall theme, with four artist images, including supplemental works and videos. Two Texas artist images and two national/international artist images are projected for students to observe, then create their own sketch of the works. The instructor implements VTS (visual thinking strategies) to facilitate a conversation with the students about contemporary art based on three open-ended questions:

1. What's going on in this image?
2. What do you see that makes you say that?
3. What more can we find?

The three questions challenge students to view artwork, explain their ideas, find evidence to support their opinions, and then study pieces more closely. During the discussion, areas of the art that students refer to are highlighted, with paraphrasing of what students say to draw connections between the comments of different students. Paraphrasing ensures that everyone hears each comment, gives value to the students' comments, and helps them learn the skill of listening and understanding others. This process encourages discovery, thought and discussion. Practice respectful, democratic problem solving as students begin the path toward visual literacy.

During sessions, students:

- Examine works of art by looking, drawing, and talking
- Point out what they see in the art and express their opinions
- Provide evidence to explain their interpretive comments
- Know their thoughts are heard, understood and valued
- See that each comment contributes to the group's understanding of the art

What images are used for discussion?

Art Think is designed to introduce students to, or enhance students' current understanding of contemporary art. Images for each of the classroom sessions are based on a common theme to which students should be able to relate easily. In each session, students will be exposed to art works of historical significance, as well as those of contemporary local artists. The images for discussion have been carefully selected to represent a diversity of artists and styles.

The curriculum for the seven sessions of Art Think:

Session 1: BE: Identity & Self

Session 2: RELATE: Relationships & Family

Session 3: LIVE: Everyday Life

Session 4: REMEMBER: Emotions & Memory

Session 5: PRESERVE: Environment & Science

Session 6: COMMUNICATE: High Tech & Media

Session 7: Art Discussion at Dallas Contemporary

Art Think Field Trips: The Seventh Session

Art Think offers an optional seventh session as a field trip to Dallas Contemporary and other local institutions. This final session serves two purposes:

1. To encourage students to implement the techniques they have learned through the Art Think program while looking at art in “real” life.
2. To engage students in their local arts organizations and institutions.

We strongly encourage teachers to book a field trip. A typical outing will consist of 50 to 60 students, with the students divided into small groups of 15 to 20 and paired with an Art Ambassador. Art Think discussions last approximately an hour, and at this time an additional writing activity or art activity may be implemented to enhance students’ experience. Students can eat lunch in the galleries, and additionally, Dallas Contemporary partners with The Nasher Sculpture Center, Meadows Museum, Dallas Museum of Art and the Latino Cultural Center.

General rules of Dallas Contemporary galleries:

1. Do not touch the artworks, unless the work is interactive.
2. Stand three feet from the artwork.
3. Do not run in the galleries.
4. Speak quietly.
5. Take photos, however flash photography is discouraged.
6. Have fun! Feel free to express your opinion and thoughts about the exhibitions.

TEKS - Art

(1) Perception. The student develops and organizes ideas from the environment.

- (A) Not applicable
- (B) The student is expected to compare and contrast the use of art elements and art principles in personal artworks and those of others, using vocabulary accurately.

(2) Creative expression/performance. The student expresses ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skill.

- (A) The student is expected to create visual solutions by elaborating on direct observation, experiences, and imagination.
- (B) The student is expected to create designs for practical applications.

(3) Historical/cultural heritage. The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture as records of human achievement.

- (A) The student is expected to compare and contrast historical and cultural styles, identifying general themes and trends.

(B) The student is expected to describe general characteristics in artworks from a variety of cultures.

(4) Response/evaluation. The student makes informed judgments about personal artworks and the artworks of others.

(A) The student is expected to interpret, evaluate and justify artistic decisions in personal artworks.

(B) The student is expected to select and analyze original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others to form precise conclusions about formal qualities, historical and cultural contexts, intents and meanings.