

pre-visit and
post-visit
materials for
teachers

grades 7-12

cai guo-qiang: saraab
05.12.2011 - 26.05.2012

mathaf

arab museum of
modern art

we welcome you to mathaf: arab museum of modern art

Our Guided School Visits focus on three to four works of art where students learn to look, analyze and discuss artworks on view and the ideas that emerge from them.

This pre-visit and post-visit guide provides you with information about Mathaf, its current exhibition, our school programs, tools and ideas to help you prepare your students for their visit, and ways to continue the learning back in your classroom.

Thank you for making Mathaf your second classroom.

Sincerely,

Maral J. Bedoyan
School Programs Coordinator

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mathaf: the story

Our story begins more than twenty years ago, when our patron and founder H.E. Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamed bin Ali Al Thani first began to imagine what an Arab Museum of Modern Art might look like. He started to build a collection that could serve artists and the public as a rich and representative treasure-house of modern Arab art. And he saw this collection as a starting point, to create more opportunities for artists and for art-lovers in Doha and around the world.

Mathaf hosts exhibitions, programs and events that explore and celebrate art by Arab artists and offer an Arab perspective on international modern and contemporary art.

current exhibition

cai guo-qiang: saraab

Cai Guo-Qiang: Saraab reaffirms Mathaf's commitment to presenting an Arab perspective on modern and contemporary art, turning eastward to consider artistic dynamics across Asia for the first time. The artist explores ideas about historic, present-day and imaginary travels between Doha and his hometown of Quanzhou, China. These works, many of which were created with the assistance of local volunteers, juxtapose symbols of coastal China and the Arabian Gulf region. They play with ideas of time and space, real and unreal, the permanent and the temporary. By re-imagining Asian connections in this way, Saraab can help visitors to look beyond an "East/West" relationship in contemporary art. At the same time, these new connections between cultures appear constructed instead of unconditionally true.

about the artist

Based in New York, Cai Guo-Qiang was born in 1957 in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, China. His work crosses multiple media within art, including drawing, installation, video and performance art. While living in Japan from 1986 to 1995, he explored the properties of gunpowder in his drawings, an inquiry that eventually led to his experimentation with explosives on a massive scale and to the development of his signature explosion events.

guidelines for guided school visits

At Mathaf we:

listen to students' thoughts and ideas.

host visits that are interactive, informative and interesting.

collaborate with teachers of all subjects to nurture the artist within a student.

encourage the teachers to positively engage with the students.

invite you to make Mathaf your second classroom by tailoring visits to your curriculum.

Our school programs are categorized by themes. Choose one of the themes from the *Faces of a Fannan* topics listed on page 5.

Since the museum provides one educator per 25 students, we need the support from teachers and chaperones to maintain positive group behavior and respect.

Guided visits are available in English and Arabic.

Upon approval from the school and guardians, we may ask you to be a part of our public image by photographing or video recording the students during the visit. Please see *Media Release Form* for your review.

After your guided visit, we invite you to browse our Maktaba (library) have a snack at Maqha (the café) check out Mahal (the shop) and explore Manara (our education space).

Lunch: kindly notify us in advance if you are planning on having lunch after the visit. You can enjoy a meal at our café, Maqha, or students can bring their own lunch.

Mathaf is located at the edge of Education City off of Al-Luqta Street.

Parking is available.

Buses can access front gate for drop off and pick up.

To schedule a visit:

mathaf.com/school-visit-form.html

or contact:

School Programs Coordinator

Mathaf Education Department

+974.4402.8827 / 4402.8853

mathaf_education@qma.org.qa

faces of a fannan

Our guided visits foster learning through strengthening students' observational, communication, and critical thinking skills. Designed by a Mathaf educator to suit your class' needs and interests, our thematic lessons encourage students to look at the world through the eyes of a fannan (artist).

i am an observing fannan

Ideal for primary schools

*what do artists do?
how do artists
represent what they
see?*

Students develop skills of looking at art, enhancing visual literacy skills and learning artistic vocabulary such as line, shape, composition, and abstraction. Excellent choice for all levels, especially first time visitors.

i am a storytelling fannan

Ideal for primary schools

*what stories do
artworks tell us?*

This visit will examine the narrative qualities of art. We will discuss the main idea, mood/tone, character and setting and other relevant storytelling topics. This is a great choice for language and anthology classes.

i am a critical fannan

13 years old+

*how do artists tell us
about our changing
world?*

Just as it has defined much of modern and contemporary art, this visit will focus on how art can be a medium for social change. Students will discuss topics such as social issues, politics, identity, and history. Ideal for mature students.

i am an experimental fannan

15 years old+

*what makes
something art? what
are the limits?*

This exciting theme will explore artistic processes and materials from the 19th century to the present day. Students can experiment with more abstract concepts in art while debating and evaluating the definition of art.

preparing your students

We aim to create a learning environment that is positive and enjoyable. Please go over these basic points with your students and chaperones before their visit.

mathaf manners

why?

Stand back from works of art, and do not touch.

The art works are precious and we want to enjoy them for a very long time. The natural oils and acids on human hands leave behind residues that can harm the surfaces of art objects.

Stay with the group at all times

We don't want you to get lost.

Walk, don't run.

We care about your safety. If you run you may fall and injure yourself, your friends, or an artwork.

Raise your hand to talk, and use inside voices to share your idea

Noise can echo through the museum, so using inside voices help us to have a conversation where everyone can be heard.

Backpacks and bags should be placed in lockers

We want you to be comfortable during your visit, and avoid bumping into things with your bag.

Use pencils only for sketching or notes.

Ink and other materials are dangerous to the safety of an artwork.

No flash photography.

Over time, the flash will damage the artworks noticeably by affecting its colours.

No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in the galleries.

You can enjoy a nice meal after the visit at Maqha.

No mobile phones allowed in the galleries

To respect others while they are talking, we ask that you wait to use your phone until after we are finished with the visit.

pre-visit and post-visit activities

When the artist Cai Guo-Qiang was asked about his own approach to inspire students, he advised the following:

Encourage students to use many kinds of materials, or things in nature to make artwork. To make art you don't need expensive materials, use whatever is available.

Make students realize that they can use traditional symbols and stories that they grew up knowing and let that be a source for inspiration.

Ask them. How you can use pieces of history to tell a story? How to make it interesting and beautiful for people hearing the story in the present day?

Objective:

The Pre-Visit Activities give students the tools to start thinking about what they will learn and what to expect when they visit the museum. Students will prepare for their visit to Mathaf by investigating featured artworks in the exhibition including gunpowder drawings, installations and video displays. Please see images of the artworks on our website mathaf.org.qa/mathaf_cai_commission.html

Students examine the elements of storytelling to discuss the journey of Cai Guo-Qiang, while making connections between the artworks, the messages they carry and relate it to their own environment and imagination in telling a story.

Review:

You may feel it is necessary to review the key concepts of storytelling with the students. Refreshing these terms will help students discuss the artworks presented in these pre-visit activities, and at the museum.

- Theme: the main idea
- Plot: the events of the story
- Setting: Time & Place(country, place, era, time of day, etc)
- Character: appearance, personality, behavior of people, animals, objects
- Tone: the artist's attitude toward a subject. (optimist, joyful, pessimist, destructive)
- Mood: the feeling of the art work (mystery, humour, serious)
- Symbolism: familiar patterns and signs, or anything obscure that suggests a meaning

pre-visit activities

Before coming to the museum, try one of these activities to spark your students' creativity and prepare them for what they will experience at Mathaf.

discuss. brainstorm.

what is a museum?

Purpose:

This conversation gets the students thinking about the purpose of their visit to the museums, looking at art and exploring a different space for learning.

Ask your students:

- Who has been to a museum before?
- What do museums offer that is not available from a book, or the internet?
- Why is it important to look at art?

telling a story with found objects

Purpose:

Cai uses gunpowder to create his artworks. Students need to find materials or found objects that they can use to tell a story about their own history or personal experience.

Ask your students:

- To do a small research about gunpowder, its origin and use.
Explain that gunpowder is Cai's signature material in creating his artworks, as it reflects his identity, since gunpowder was invented in China.
- To choose one material/object that would represent you and your identity.
- Once chosen, students write a brief proposal of how they would like to use this material to create an artwork that tells a story about their identity and personal experience.
- To be encouraged to think outside the box and create art out of the most basic material found.

post-visit activities

After your visit, here are some activities that you can use to continue the learning back in your classroom.

ordinary to extraordinary

Purpose:

To connect the pre and post visit activities with the students' creativity and inspiration, drawn from the exhibition **Cai Guo-Qiang: Saraab**.

Ask your students:

- Which artwork inspired you the most, and why?
- How were you able to identify with the artwork viewed?
- Were you able to see how Cai made those connections between his identity and the Arab identity?
- Use the proposal you wrote before the visit and create an artwork using your found object of choice, inspired by **Cai Guo-Qiang: Saraab**.

home in your own words

Purpose:

In many of his works, Cai expresses the idea of belonging and searching for home. This triggers the need to search for what "home" means and how can one define it to represent them and their identity?

Ask your students:

Think of your own images and symbols that represent the idea of "home" for you. Write a 200 word paragraph that expresses how you would like to tell others about your idea of home. Share your story with the class and compare your definition with your peers.

mathaf

arab museum of
modern art

release form

we would love you to be part of our public image! to allow mathaf to publish a visual/audio recording of you, please read on and sign below.

By signing below, I authorize Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and its employees and associates to use and/or reproduce any recordings made of me today, without compensation, as part of future marketing, promotional, educational, and archival uses, in media such as web sites, publications, broadcasts, advertisements, posters etc.

I understand that "recording" includes but is not limited to photographs, digital images, drawings, renderings, voices, sounds, video recordings, audio clips or accompanying written descriptions. All recordings in any format (digital, print etc) will be owned by Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art. Recordings may be used without notifying me in advance. I release Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and its employees and associates, including publishers and distributors, from any claims, damages or liability which ever arise in connection with the taking or use of the recordings.

I am 18 years of age or older. I have read, understood and accept these terms.

Name (please print):

Signature / Date:

If I am under 18 years of age

Signature of parent or guardian / Date:

Address / Email (optional)

Mobile Number:

thank you very much!

استمارة إذن بالنشر

يسعدنا أن تكون من ضمن الصورة العامة
لمتحف! سماحاً لنا بنشر تسجيلاتكم السمعية
والبصرية، يرجى قراءة التالي والتوقيع أدناه.

بالتوقيع أدناه، أنا أسمح لمتحف: المتحف العربي للفن الحديث وموظفيها
وشركائهم باستخدام / أو إعادة إنتاج أي من تسجيلاتي وبدون تعويض، وذلك كجزء
من التسويق والتطوير والتعليم والارشيف وكذلك للاستخدام في وسائل الإعلام
مثل المواقع على شبكة الإنترنت والمنشورات والبرامج الإذاعية والملصقات
والإعلانات الخ.

وأفهم أن "التسجيل" شامل و لكن لا يقتصر فقط على الصور الفوتوغرافية والصور
الرقمية والرسومات والتصاميم والصوتات وتسجيلات الفيديو ومقاطع صوتية
أو الوصف المكتوب. يمتلك متحف: المتحف العربي للفن الحديث جميع
التسجيلات في أي شكل (الطباعة، الرقمية، الخ) ويمكن استخدامها دون علمي
مسبقاً. أنا اسرح لمتحف: المتحف العربي للفن الحديث وموظفيها وشركائهم،
بما في ذلك الناشرين والموزعين، من أي أضرار أو مطالبات أو المسؤولية التي
تنشأ من أي ربط مع أخذ أو استخدام هذه التسجيلات.

أنا ابلغ من العمر ١٨ سنة أو أكثر، و قد قرأت وفهمت ووافقت على الشروط اعلاه.

الاسم:

التوقيع / التاريخ:

توقيع الوالد أو ولي الأمر
إذا كنت ما دون ١٨ سنة من العمر :

عنوان / البريد الإلكتروني (اختياري)
رقم الهاتف الجوال :

شكراً جزيلاً على حسن مشاركتكم