

Using the Interactive Whiteboard in the Artroom

Theresa McGee

Large, interactive displays controlled by touch, known as “interactive whiteboards” (IWBs) have been a trend in education for the last few years. Instead of writing with chalk or a marker, an interactive whiteboard, connected to a computer and projector, “reads” the motion of your finger or stylus on the board. Some teachers use commercial interactive whiteboards in their classrooms such as SMART or Promethean, while others have made their own using a Wii remote (vimeo.com/15064211) or an iPad 2 (tinyurl.com/IWBiPad). Interactive whiteboards can be a valuable tool for teacher-led demonstrations. They also provide an opportunity for direct student interaction.

Finding interactive whiteboard resources and ideas appropriate for your art curriculum can be challenging, but not impossible. Learn how art teacher Tricia Fuglestad uses the IWB in her curriculum (tinyurl.com/IWBwiki) or join ArtEd 2.0 at (arted20.ning.com) to access the Teaching with SMART Technology group.

Organizing your resources by topic may also help you connect to your curriculum. Here are a few resources to get you started:

Collage

Interact with the found objects in the work of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (aminahsworld.org). Your students can explore twigs, shells, and mud cloth textures. You might also try Thinkdraw (www.thinkdraw.com) to compose a portrait or abstracted collage. This simple interactive provides objects such as facial features, flowers, and other shapes to scale and rotate.

Portraiture

Complement any portrait lesson through discovery of contour line



drawing (tinyurl.com/ContourPortrait), create zany compositions using Picassohead (tinyurl.com/picassoPortrait), or observe characteristic differences among African masks with a traditional memory game (tinyurl.com/AfricanMask).

Sculpture

Use Sculpturemania to choose materials, location, and carve a virtual sculpture (tinyurl.com/SculptArt), analyze Dale Chihuly's glasswork (tinyurl.com/glassSculpture), or view a panorama documenting the work of Andy Goldsworthy (tinyurl.com/NGAGold).

Architecture

Explore Egypt in the Tomb of Perneb (tinyurl.com/Perneb), or design a home using Architect Studio 3-D (www.architectstudio3d.org).

Elements and Principles

When teaching symmetry, try Myoats (tinyurl.com/radialsymmetry). Adjust color, intensity, and size to create an interesting radial effect.

Learn about color by adjusting a slider on Monet's Impression Sunrise (tinyurl.com/colorMonet), discuss shape or form using tangrams (tinyurl.com/ShapeTangram), or explore a

variety of art elements and principles using the Artist's Toolkit (tinyurl.com/theToolkit).

Art History

SMARTboard users can download an art history interactive created by art teacher Amy Kratochvil (tinyurl.com/SmartPainting).

Create Your Own Interactive

Wallwisher, an online movable pin-board is a good place to start creating a personalized interactive page (see November 2010 Tech4Arted article: tinyurl.com/SchlArtsNov). Categorize artwork by media or style using this Wallwisher for IWB: www.wallwisher.com/wall/sortart.

Providing interactive learning activities can enhance your curriculum and transform your teaching. Interactive whiteboards do not make you a better teacher or guarantee that your students will learn. When used consciously and where appropriate, they are a good tool to promote student engagement. ☺

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