

Discussion/Activity Questions for the Cherry Creek Arts Festival's Mobile Art Gallery

- 1) Some artists paint scenes and subjects drawn from what they have seen in their own part of the country. Grant Wood, for example, painted pictures about the Midwest. Georgia O'Keeffe painted images of the Southwest. These images tell us about these areas and often give us a glimpse into the artist's mind. They show us how they feel about these places. • Find an image in this exhibit that illustrates a place. • Write a paragraph describing this place and if you can describe the artist's feeling about this location. • Make your own picture of a location you feel strongly about. Write a paragraph about your picture.
- 2) Some words mean special things to you. Words like crash, smile, touch, anger can remind you of things you have seen or felt. Artists use these words to create images. Choose a piece of art in this show that speaks to you in this way. • Describe how the image makes you feel. • What would you name the piece if you were to rename it? • Think of words that mean something special to you, brainstorm a list of words that create a clear visual picture for you (for example: dark and dreary night.) • Make a drawing that shows the best meaning of one of the words you thought of. Write the words on the back of your drawing and let others try to guess your word.
- 3) Scientists learn about plants, animals and rocks by studying their details. They measure, weigh and describe their shape, color and texture. Artists do the same thing. They look closely at interesting things, then draw them. Choose an image that you think the artist had to do very careful observing. • Why do you think this? • What things do you observe while studying this piece?
- 4) Artists sometimes get ideas for their work from poems and songs. As you walk through the exhibit find an image that appeals to you. • Write a poem about it.
- 5) From a distance, hills, trees and buildings seem to turn a whitish purple or blue gray color. This happens because dust, mist and distance affect how light and color travel. • Discuss this as a class, then walk through the art show and try to find examples of artists using atmospheric pressure to show depth.

- 6) Choose one piece of art that attracts or repels you. • Describe it by creating a list of descriptive adjectives and phrases.
- 7) Walk through the exhibit and choose a piece that arouses questions for you.
 - What would you ask the artist if he/she were present?
 - Pretend you are able to have a conversation with them and write out the dialog between yourself and the artist.
- 8) Historians use a wide variety of sources to discover and learn about a time period or people within history. • Do you think art can play a part in this discovery? Why or why not? How would you use the art in this show to tell about life today? What conclusions might you come to?
- 9) Basketball, track, gymnastics and wrestling are all action sports. The players need to use certain exact movements. They usually need to move fast. • What do players look like as they make these movements? How do their bodies bend and twist? Artists use these same lines within a picture to make the viewers eye travel through a piece. • Choose a piece that has a feeling of movement for you and describe it. How does the artist use lines, color, texture and contrast to create the feeling of movement? How do other professions create a feeling of movement (music, writing, etc.)?
- 10) Sometimes when you look at a picture, it is difficult to determine what it is about. Often the picture does not look like anything. • Find an image that is abstract and look at it carefully. After observing this piece carefully write about how this piece makes you feel and think.
- 11) Imagine you are writing a small article for the newspaper about the Mobile Art Gallery. Be sure to include the who, what, when, where and why, also try to compare and contrast the pieces of art.
- 12) Read the titles of various pieces. • What do you think is the meaning behind some of the more informative ones? Why do you think some pieces are titled "Untitled"? (Some artists might find a title too suggestive and encourage the viewer to create their own meaning.) What would you title some of the untitled pieces?