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Reimagining Engagement: A Case Study of Interactive Educational Programs in Art Museums

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Abstract: This case study examines the educational programs the Musée de l'Orangerie offers in Paris, focusing on its interactive and immersive approaches to art education. The museum, known for its Impressionist and Modern art collection, provides various educational programs tailored to different age groups and backgrounds, including children's, family, school, and adult programs. These programs aim to enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of art through hands-on activities, guided tours, and digital platforms.

Keywords: Musée de l'Orangerie; Interactive Educational Programs; Art Museums; Impressionist Art.

1. Introduction

The Musée de l'Orangerie, located on rue Tuileries in the 1st arrondissement of Paris, is an art museum known for its collection of Impressionist and Modern art. The Musée de l'Orangerie was originally built by Napoleon I as a greenhouse in the middle of the Tuileries Gardens. Between 1922 and 1927, the Orangerie was converted into an art museum with a large collection of Impressionist and Modern art [1]. What makes the Orangerie special is that it exhibits many masterpieces by Impressionist and Late Impressionist artists, such as Monet, Van Gogh, and Cézanne. It also has a collection of works from schools such as the Paris School and the Cobra School, as well as some works of abstract art. The Orangerie offers many exhibitions and educational programs, such as special exhibitions, lectures, and guided tours, which attract visitors and art lovers from all over the world. 2019 saw the completion of a renovation and modernization upgrade of the Orangerie, adding new exhibition spaces and supporting facilities to further enhance the visitor experience and artistic value.



Fig 1. The exterior of the Orange Garden Museum of Art

The lower level of the Orangerie is dedicated to the private collection of artworks donated by Jean Walter and Paul Guillaume. The collection consists of 148 works, mainly paintings by Impressionist and Post-Impressionist artists from 1860 to 1930s, such as Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin, Monet, Sisley, Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, Rousseau, Derain, Soutine, and others [2].



Fig 2. Water lily exhibition area

2. Summary of Educational Provision

Located in Paris, France, the Musée d'Art Orangerie is a museum with a modern art theme. The art museum offers art education programs of varying difficulty and themes, including children's programs, family programs, school programs, and adult programs. Participants can learn painting techniques, understand art history, explore the language of art, and more. In addition to courses, the Museum also offers related workshops, such as digital art workshops, photography workshops, and gallery exploration workshops. The workshops have a wide variety of topics covering different fields and skills for participants to choose from. The Museum offers guided tours that lead visitors to explore the exhibitions. The guides will explain the artistic ideas and historical background behind the works to help visitors better understand the works [3].

In addition, the Orange Garden Museum of Art has a digital platform for visitors to browse the museum's works and exhibitions online. Visitors can choose the language and theme to learn more about the art. The museum's audience is made up of people from different countries and different social and cultural backgrounds, so the only way to better understand the artworks is to implement diverse outreach and education programs.

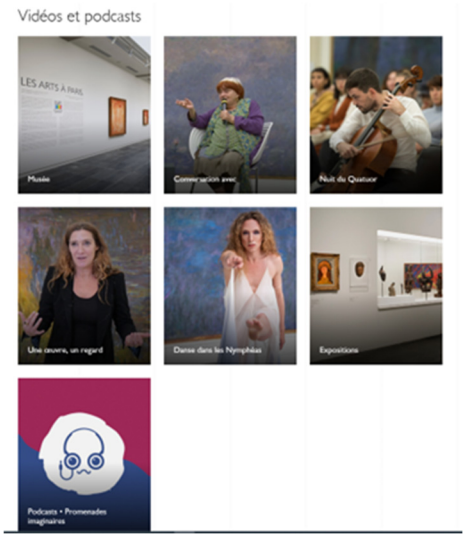


Fig 3. Videos and podcasts

3. Literature References

The Orangerie takes the visitor's experience very seriously. Claude Monet, together with architect Camille Lefèvre (1876–1946), invested heavily in the architectural project [4]. In the end, there were eight panels, two meters high, 91 meters long in total, arranged in two oval rooms, forming the sign of infinity. Their east-west orientation places them on the sun and the main axis of Paris from the Arc de Triomphe to the Louvre. The two consecutive rooms are accessed through a vestibule, which constitutes a transition to the outside world. Finally, the natural light from the ceiling immerses the visitor in the state of elegance desired by the painter.



Fig 4. Installing the Water Lilies

At the same time, the Musée de l'Orangerie was expanding its collection and organisation of Impressionist works. In 1945, the Orangerie was founded by Jeu de Paume, who collected the Impressionist collection of the Louvre, an entity attached to the Louvre's Department of Painting. The Musée de l'Orangerie's collection traces certain unique aspects of 20th-century art, whether it is the magnificent setting of Claude Monet's water lilies, the ultimate masterpiece of the father of Impressionism, or the collection of paintings by Paul Guillaume and Domenica Walter, characterised by a tension between modernity and a return to tradition, from Renoir to Matisse, from Cézanne to Picasso, from the customs officer Rousseau to Modigliani and even Soutine.

The development of the educational aspect of the Orange Garden Museum of Art dates back to 1905, when its founder, Jean Walter, created the "Woland Class" to provide an opportunity for those eager to learn about art, which was the beginning of the Orange Garden Museum's educational direction.

Museum education has been undergoing a theoretical transformation from a focus on the individual experience of artefacts to a sociocultural perspective, focussing on activity and language as mediators in the process of meaning formation (Ellenbogen, 2003). The Orange Park Museum of Art actively shapes knowledge; using their collection, they put together visual cultural narratives that produce a view of the past, which in turn produces a view of the present. The Orange Garden Museum of Art focusses on intersecting and complementary ways of presenting artworks in their exhibition design, allowing visitors to understand the context of the artwork's creation, its historical background, and the artist's intention through different thematic exhibitions, and enhancing visitors' knowledge of culture and society. The museum's exhibitions are not one-way presentations and displays of works but focus more on audience participation and interaction. Examples include virtual reality exhibitions, digital artwork exhibitions, and sound effects exhibitions. Visitors can take a virtual tour of Claude Monet's Water Lilies by walking through the two oval rooms and using the Zoom function to immerse themselves in the details of the artist's eight monumental works.

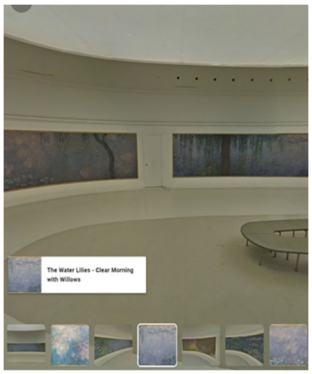
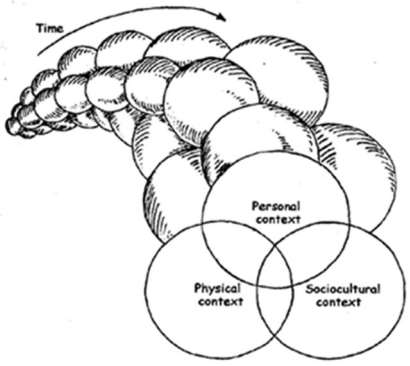


Fig 5. Virtual Reality Art Museum

In the early 20th century, the Orangerie began offering tutorial programs to the public to popularize contemporary art and increase public understanding and interest in art. In 1929, the Orangerie launched an exhibition dedicated to children, showcasing children's artworks and educational exhibitions, providing an art-filled learning environment for children. (Annick Lantenois, "Orangerie: des ateliers pour moins de publics", in Beaux Arts magazine, n°397, April 2017, pp. 68-74.) This also provided museum researchers with new ideas. Since the 1990s, researchers in the museum field have become increasingly interested in the museum experience. Trying to understand why visitors go tries to understand why visitors go to museums, what they do there, and what they will learn. Falk & Dierking (1992) approached this challenge from the visitor's perspective. The challenge was approached from the visitor's perspective and a model of the interactive experience was developed [5].

In 2005, the Musée d'Art Orangerie created the "Ateliers de L'Orangerie" to provide a broader and deeper learning opportunity for workshops, seminars, academic lectures, research projects, and more. The Ateliers de L'Orangerie is an art education center of the Musée d'Art Orangerie in Paris, France. Founded in 2006, it aims to provide high-quality art

education services to the general public through a variety of artist lectures, workshops, courses, and guided tours. The goal of the Orangerie Academy is to turn the collections and exhibitions of the Musée d'Art Orangerie into an educational resource and a space for the public to learn and create through collaboration with artists, experts, and educators. The Academy's main activities are artist lectures, in which prominent artists are invited to speak and interact with the Orange Garden Museum of Art, allowing the public to learn more directly about the artists and their work. According to Greenhill (1996), unless we try very hard, we remember about 10% of what we read, 20% of what we do, 30% of what we see, 70% of what we say, and 90% of what we say and do [6]. The Founding Artist Lecture incorporates 3 main ways of engaging with the material to be learned: symbolic, active, and iconic modes.



(Source: Falk and Dierking, 2000, p.12)

Fig 6. The Contextual Model of Learning

Table 1 Modes of learning and involvement relate to how much we are able to recall

We tend to remember . . .	Type of activity	Mode of learning and level of involvement
Read 10%	reading	symbolic mode
Hear 20%	hearing words	abstract passive
See 30%	looking at pictures looking at objects watching a film looking at a diorama watching a demonstration watching a play	iconic mode concrete passive
Say 70%	participating in a discussion giving a talk	enactive mode
Say and do 90%	giving a demonstration handling and talking about objects using interactive exhibits giving a demonstration doing a dramatic presentation	experimental active

Fig 7. Modes of learning and involvement

A museum's other critical position is to reach a diverse and inclusive audience (Powerhouse Museum, 1995). As mentioned in Greenhill's (1994) findings from several studies of museums, the educational role of museums is achieved through 2 main modes of communication: mass communication and interpersonal communication, and museum learning can be divided accordingly into distance learning and face-to-face teaching. The Orange Garden Museum of Art has also built an online learning platform through digital technology that allows anyone to study contemporary art online, thus expanding educational resources. The Orange Garden Museum also holds annual seminars on different topics, allowing students and young explorers from different fields and backgrounds to explore the ideas and expressions of contemporary art. In addition, the museum holds exhibitions and workshops specifically for students to give young people a better understanding of contemporary art thinking and expression.

Overall, the development of the Orange Garden Museum of Art in terms of educational significance has always maintained a parallel emphasis on the public and the professional. Through various exhibitions, workshops, and lectures, the museum raises public awareness of contemporary art, provides professional students and researchers with broader and deeper learning opportunities, and promotes the popularization and development of contemporary art.

4. Instructional Programme Design

The following lesson plan focuses on the most famous artwork of the Musée de l'Orangerie, "Claude Monet's Water Lilies".

The Musée de l'Orangerie collection consists of eight great water lilies assembled from different panels of Monet's portraits. These assemblages all have the same height (1.97 m) but different widths to be distributed on the curved walls of two ovoid rooms. The artist contemplated the installation for a long time and completed it according to his wishes with the architect Camille Lefèvre and with the help of Clemenceau. It anticipates the shapes, volumes, layouts, scans, and spaces between the different panels, the free path of the visitor through the several openings between the rooms, the zenith daylight that fills the space in good weather or, on the contrary, it becomes more discreet when it is obscured by clouds, thus making the painting tremble over time.

4.1. Basic Information About the Teaching Program

The lesson plan is named "My Little Impression Notes" and the target audience is secondary school second-grade students. The entire lesson plan is proposed to take six hours, including two hours for a special water lily gallery visit, another two hours to visit other galleries according to their preferences, and the last two hours to gather for a hands-on art activity.

4.2. Teaching Philosophy

This course aims to combine academic knowledge and artistic fascination to help students better understand and appreciate the exhibits and cultural values of art museums. Thus, bringing them a meaningful cultural journey. The vehicle for the curriculum is the "water lilies" in the exhibition.



Fig 8. Students' creative process

At the beginning of the course, the children are "shown and told" background knowledge about Impressionism, whether they know the artist Monet, whether they have seen Impressionist paintings, what they know about the work

Water Lilies, and what they think of the work Water Lilies after viewing. The children will be given a pre-visit worksheet.

The program will emphasize the element of "light and shadow" in Impressionist works, and we will "analyze the effect of light and shadow" on the water lily works through the eyes. Children develop a depth of understanding of Impressionist works through constant observation and discussion. As children analyze the work through self-observation and create their favorite part about water lilies through imagination, students will eventually learn to appreciate and interpret different art forms.

4.3. Teaching Resources in the Exhibition



Fig 9. Reflection of the trees



Fig 10. Cloud



Fig 11. Early Morning Willow



Fig 12. Two willow trees



Fig 13. Sunset



Fig 14. Green Reflections



Fig 15. Morning



Fig 16. Morning of Willow

4.4. Key Learning Points

- Analysis of the effect of light and shade in the water lily work
- Comparison of different views in the whole painting
- Understanding of the portrayal of landscape in Impressionist paintings
- Analysis of the use of color in water lilies
- Summarize the characteristics of water lilies and how they differ from other Impressionist works

4.5. Materials

- Pencil
- Acrylic
- Color palette
- Watercolor pencils
- Oil paint sticks
- Stamps
- Color cards

4.6. Lesson Plan

Courses	Focus	Planning	Evaluation
1	Course Introduction	About visiting the special water lily gallery and other galleries About the introduction of Impressionist works	Thinking and Understanding from the cognitive model of Adolescents
2	Research	Use your cell phone to record memorable or interesting works and discuss them	Ability to research observations and share ideas in group discussions
3	Analysis	Analyze the compositional characteristics of the recorded works and what impressionistic style they have	Level of understanding of Impressionist works
4	Creation	Copy a part of your favorite work or a detail of a water lily from existing materials	Creative ability
5	Panel Discussion	Share their copied works and discuss ideas with each other	Expressive narrative and summarization skills
6	Evaluation Appreciation	Presentation of creative practice to the class (ideas, process, materials, light, and shadow effects, style, colors)	Aesthetic awareness and appreciation of others' works and reflective review

Fig 17. Teaching Plan

The course is student-centered and goes through students' current level of knowledge to break through. Students are guided to explore the exhibition content in greater depth and to engage in interactive Q&A and group discussions to improve their thinking skills and academic literacy. By estimating students' spontaneous copying and creation, students are better able to learn and master various visual expression skills. This is important for developing children's drawing and expression skills. Different artworks usually show a variety of elements, such as line, color, composition, etc. Through practical activities, students can improve their observation skills and know how to experience more information and connotations in artworks.

5. Conclusion and Reflection

As a world-class museum, the Musée d'Orangerie in Paris attracts the attention and affection of art lovers and visitors with its precious artworks, beautiful exhibition spaces, and high-quality services. Learning in the Musée Orangerie is embodied, immersive, holistic, personalized, performative, and identity-related. They inspire a desire to learn and strive, they stimulate "readiness to learn," and the success of learning through the "serious play" experienced in the museum makes learners feel more confident, begin to develop resilience and receptivity, and potentially develop a stronger self-image. The success of "serious play" learning through museum experiences makes learners feel more confident, begin to develop resilience and acceptance, and potentially develop a stronger self-image. The Orangerie has the opportunity to present itself as a powerful postmodern learning site.

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