

Title of Session: ArtsConnected

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Room: Kevan Nitzberg's Office

KevanN: Well, there is some new information tonight

KevanN:and some additional ideas for using ArtsConnected as well

ShereeR: Great Kevan!

KevanN: Shall we start then?

ShereeR: Sure

BJ nods to Kevan

KevanN: OK - have you seen the Global Positioning site that was recently posted as a new feature?

BJ: I haven't

KevanN: Let's start there then....

ShereeR: no

KevanN: This program provides links to an international group of artists who represent a wide variety of media and cultural viewpoints.

KevanN: Let's go visit....

KevanN: When we get to the site, go to the Art Gallery - the Global Positioning icon is on the bottom right...<http://www.artsconnected.org>

KevanN: This site is provided by the Walker Art Center and is an outgrowth of a show that they had up last year.

KevanN: There are video and sound feeds that are included on the various pages featuring the artists. If you do not have the software on your computer necessary to activate all of the functions those tools are available from the "Nuts and Bolts" page on the site. Let me know if you need to find the page.

ShereeR: Well Kevan, this is so cool. I could just get lost in here. I already found an artist I want to know more about. This site is so great.

KevanN: I am glad you are enjoying this...it is one of the few pieces that the Walker has actually created as a separate feature.

KevanN: I am using examples from this with my video computer class this year.

ShereeR: Geesh, the way this is laid out (technically) is phenomenal. I love the way this page is designed.

KevanN: They put a lot of time and effort into this site.

KevanN: Have you had a chance to use the ToolKit much?

ShereeR: Did you say all this work was in one exhibition at Walker or did I misunderstand you?

ShereeR: I haven't even got to the toolkit. This art is knocking my socks off. This stuff is tremendous.

KevanN: Yes, these artists were in an exhibition that went on for a year. Different artists were featured at different times, though...let's look at the Toolkit - that is the icon that was just above the Global Positioning one in the Art Gallery.

ShereeR: I know I am supposed to be interested in the "teaching" type info but I am an artist too and the artist in me has taken over after seeing this artwork. I will try to get back on task.....Going to the ToolKit now...

KevanN: The Toolkit provides a number of different features including some animations that help to define the elements and principles of art - check out Explore the Toolkit and click on "Line"

ShereeR: I am at the Toolkit right now

KevanN: the green triangle icon is where you should go next

ShereeR: (I am really trying to be a good girl and pay attention here..)

SusanR joined the room.

KevanN: lol! that's ok - lots of time to play later...

KevanN: Hi Susan!

SusanR waves to Kevan and Sheree

KevanN: We are experimenting with the Artists Toolkit in ArtsConnected

SusanR: I am on Helpdesk. So I will audit this session while keeping an eye on reception.

ShereeR: So after the green triangle, what are we supposed to look at now?

KevanN: A series of artworks from the MIA are used in these animations - click on Line

KevanN: ...and watch the animation

KevanN: Franz Marc's tiger won't bite !

SusanR: Thanks Kevan

KevanN: Depth is another cool animated feature as well....try that one next

KevanN: Party anyone?

KevanN: John Sloan's South Beach Bathers are having a gay old time...

KevanN: Also is the Space section is the perspective icon that is also worth a visit (well, actually, they all are).

KevanN: and Pissarro is the featured artist here.

KevanN: We could continue on with this for quite a long time, but you can explore more of these animations later on.

ShereeR: I will be very happy when animations don't take soooooo long to load.....

KevanN: Dial ups can be a challenge...

ShereeR: I haven't even gotten "Depth" to open up yet.

ShereeR: here it is finally

KevanN: It will. You have to be patient.

KevanN: Let's also check out another section in the Toolkit...

ShereeR: Well, I am patient. If I tried to use this with my kids at school, that would be a different story

KevanN: There are 2 short videos that were created showing artists at work using Playform pieces.

KevanN: These videos are viewable in the See Artists in Action section (the yellow hemisphere icon)

ShereeR: Where are those?

KevanN: the yellow icon under Explore the Toolkit

ShereeR: Oh I have been there before

KevanN: The 2 artists are Ta-Coumba Aiken and Judy Onofrio - MN artists

KevanN: Good - well, we needn't go there tonight

ShereeR: I watched those videos awhile ago

ShereeR: I wish there were more artist videos. I like those best of all

KevanN: 'The encyclopedia section gives you another level of information to use with students

ShereeR: I will go check it out

SusanR: Students seem to like videos in a lab setting.

KevanN: The various concepts that are defined come with examples of artists' work

KevanN: I have used a lot of the Toolkit with the video computer class I am teaching this term

KevanN: Note that many of the works that are shown in the encyclopedia also include a zoom feature for closer examination

KevanN: No worrying about setting off alarms or caustic comments from the museum security folks.

KevanN: ...even though they are just doing their job.

KevanN: Another helpful feature in the Explore the Toolkit section allows you to customize the selections that you want...

ShereeR: I like that zoom.

SusanR: Just saw the James Rosenquist exhibition at the Guggenheim in New York.

KevanN: You can click on the sections that you want to have handy and then bookmark the page for future use

ShereeR: Kevan, how do you customize?

KevanN: there is a blue box in the upper right hand corner that says Create My Toolkit

SusanR: I notice you can customize your own toolkit

KevanN: That will bring you to another screen that allows you to select only the features you want

KevanN: Yes, we were just looking at that feature - it is very handy

SusanR: Great when you want to zero in on one or two elements for younger students

KevanN: And older ones as well - sometimes attention spans are short at all levels

ShereeR: I am not seeing the blue box. Which page has it in the right corner?

KevanN: The Explore the Toolkit page

KevanN: Another cool animation is the one that illustrates repetition...try that one

ShereeR: I just clicked the "Explore the Toolkit" page and I do not see any blue box in the upper right hand corner

KevanN: Carla Running Horse's "Star Pattern Quilt" shows up

KevanN: here is the page address with the feature, Sheree:

<http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/explore.cfm>

KevanN: the box is in the upper right hand corner

KevanN: Is it working for you yet?

ShereeR: Well, I closed out and reloaded and there is no blue box in the upper right hand corner.

KevanN: hmmm....very strange. Any ideas BJ?

BJ: I loaded the star quilt with no problems.

ShereeR: Thats OK. We can move on.

BJ: I don't see any blue box either, Sheree

KevanN: no, not the quilt - the Create My Toolkit function on the upper right hand corner of the Explore the Toolkit page

ShereeR: Thank you BJ. I thought I was going loony

BJ: oh....I think Kevin is telling you how to customize your toolkit

KevanN: This is weird. Perhaps there is some software that you don't have loaded.

BJ: go back to Explore the Toolkit

KevanN: that's the point of that feature.

BJ: there is a blue box above shape

ShereeR: I guess, because there is no blue box or words that say customize your toolkit. nothing, nada, no blue box

KevanN: That is where it is - there is text in there as well, or should be

BJ: what do you see in the upper left corner of the page, Sheree?

KevanN: It reads: You can make a custom menu for your students to work with: Create my toolkit (the last piece is a hyperlink)

BJ nods..that text is in the blue box, Sheree

KevanN: It is just above the Geometric and Organic icon

KevanN: well, there might be something that you need to load onto your computer. I will get us to the right page to check on those functions now...

ShereeR: This is the ONLY thing it says under my purple top header: Artists use visual elements and principles like line, color and shape as tools to build works of art. Each title below has three sections:

ShereeR: Watch an animated demonstration

ShereeR: Find examples of the concept in works of art from museums

ShereeR: Create your own composition

ShereeR: The word "custom" doesn't appear on the entire webpage (at least the page I am looking at)

KevanN: OK...here is the address for loading all of the features needed to access all of the stuff on ArtsConnected:

ShereeR: OK

SusanR: You are here.

KevanN: <http://www.artsconnected.org/about/viewing.shtml>

KevanN: yes we are...lol!

ShereeR: OK

KevanN: There might be software that you don't have, Sheree, that is on this page. For now, though, let's keep going to another part of ArtsConnected that is relatively new.

KarenL joined the room.

KevanN: Hello Karen.

KevanN: We are about to visit what was the World Mythology section that is now World Myths and Legends.

KarenL: Hello, Kevan. Oooh, sounds good!

KevanN: There is a very nice feature here that allows students to compare the art that is displayed here.

KevanN: Here is the address:

KevanN: <http://www.artsMIA.org/world-myths/>

KevanN: If you click on the sun, you will get to the Compare and Contrast page

KevanN: After looking at the works, select 2 and then click on Begin Essay. This will allow you to write your own responses to the works.

KevanN: The works can also be clicked on for more information as well as being zoomed in on.

KevanN: The essays can be printed once they are completed - click on printable page to do that

KevanN: A very nice tool to have students examine works from other cultures / times

KevanN: Once you are done experimenting with the comparison essay page, try clicking on Explore Art by Theme

KevanN: ...that is back at the main World Myths Page or is located as a clickable icon on the upper right hand corner of the page you are on

KevanN: A variety of themes are presented here for exploration

KevanN: 14 different artworks are represented here that cover a wide range of themes for consideration

ShereeR: I am going to use this "Art by Culture" link. This year I my theme is multicultural

KevanN: Great! This is a good site to use for that

KevanN: The View All Art icon allows you to look at all of the works in this feature

KevanN: Each work is accompanied by its active link feature

KevanN: I also created a collection a while ago that I used with a multicultural student group to look at murals that represented a variety of racial and ethnic groups in the US in preparation for a mural project we did. Would you like to see the collection?

KarenL: What age group/grade level would benefit the most from this website?

KevanN: All groups. There are many different features throughout ArtsConnected that were developed to reach K-12 students as well as college and community users.

ShereeR: Sure

KarenL: Cool!

KevanN: ok...here is the collection (I hope all the links are still active):

KevanN: <http://www.artsconnected.org/pub/KevanNitzberg11487.cfm>

KevanN: Click through the various screens and check out the hyperlinks as you go

KevanN: Karen, if you haven't used ArtsConnected before, this is a feature that is quite valuable. It is called Art Collector and allows you to create collections utilizing not only information from the

KevanN: Walker and the MIA...

KevanN: but also from the internet as well.

KevanN: Directions for building a collection are located in a file in my virtual Tapped In office that you can download

KarenL: I see. It is wonderful! I need to backflip this one!

KevanN: I am glad you like it. I have literally pages of collections that I have created over the years that I use in a variety of classes. I also have my students use this feature to write online, multimedia reports.

KarenL: Are you an art teacher?

KevanN: Another great feature in ArtsConnected is the Postcard.

KevanN: Yes.

KevanN: I teach art at Anoka H.S. in Minnesota

ShereeR: Karen, are you a teacher?

KarenL: An elementary school librarian/teacher.

ShereeR: Where?

KevanN: Sheree have you used the ArtsConnected Postcards yet?

KarenL: In Detroit. I love art and like to integrate it when I read stories or do projects.

KarenL: So Kevan is giving me some ideas. . .

KevanN: This site provides innumerable opportunities for integrating art in many areas.

KarenL: I see that.

ShereeR: No, not yet. In fact, I just HAVE to get my room set up so my kids can use this site. Right now, I have some internet accessibility problems at my school. I am biting the bit to get it fixed so I can move forward with this. I love this entire site.

KevanN: Let's write some postcards then...

ShereeR: Oh wait, I did send some postcards to my artist friends!!

KevanN: Back on the main page, or in Art Gallery, you will see the Playground icon....

KevanN: Click on Playground (the 'mouse')

KevanN: Then click on Make It

KevanN: A stamp icon shows up that reads postcard...click there

KevanN: There are a number of categories for images that pop up - click one

KevanN: Click one of the images and then click Send This Postcard

ShereeR: Well thank you Kevan. This has been a great session!

KevanN: You just need to fill in who you are sending the postcard to and their email address and then your own info and the message

ShereeR: I will try to attend next month too

KevanN: Glad you enjoyed it!

KevanN: I will be here... send me a postcard even...lol!

ShereeR: Meanwhile, I have to get the internet connection working in my room

ShereeR: Bye!!

KevanN: that could be important

KevanN: bye Sheree

KevanN: Well Karen, I hope that you found this useful

KarenL: Is it time to go already? I'm just getting started!!!

KarenL: I did!!! Thank you so much!!!

KevanN: I know....but yes, the session is about over. I have been on since 6 (CST)

KarenL: Oooh, I didn't know that. I thought it started at 8:00

KevanN: Karen, feel free to download any of the files in my office. They should help

KevanN: OK. Thanks for coming!

KevanN: goodnight all.