Title of Session: ArtsConnectEd Workshop - Interdisciplinary Art Teaching Tool
Moderator: Kevan Nitzberg
Title of File: 20090521artsconnected
Date: May 21, 2009

Room: Kevan Nitzberg's Office

ShayneTr joined the room.

JeffC joined the room.

KevanN: Hi Shayne

ShayneTr: Hi everyone!

KevanN: We will be introducing the newly confugured ArtsConnectEd website this evening

JeffC . o O (cool)

KevanN: It is still in development to some extent and some of the old functionality has been replaced

KevanN: Hopefully all will work as it is supposed to this evening

JeffC: ok

JeffC: good luck

ShayneTr: great

KevanN: yeah - thanks (grin)

JeffC: I'll be coming and going myself (kid's baseball game, other kid's knitting lessons, etc.)

KevanN: well, we might as well get started....here is the address to log into:
http://artsconnected.org

KevanN: Once there, create a log in for yourself and then go to Art Finder

KevanN: ok?

KevanN: Good luck with young parenting, Jeff - I almost remember those days (chuckle)

KevanN: How are you doing Shayne?

KevanN: One other management tool - If you have not already done so, click on Detach in the Actions menu so that your chat screen separates out from the main screen...easier to navigate that way

ShayneTr: Done. Sorry, I thought I had already registered but couldn't remember login. I'm ok.

KevanN: Good! Well, this looks a lot different than the old format...

KevanN: You will see a variety if tabs to click on as well as a series of search options...

KevanN: You can do a search for each of the tabs....

KevanN: These will be expanding in terms of content over time...

KevanN: Click on the Interactive Resource tab

ShayneTr: Where is it?

KevanN: All of the old features in Topics in Focus are here as well as some additional programs

KevanN: The interactive tab is on the Art Finder page

ShayneTr: thanks!

KevanN: Had you been to the old ArtsConnectEd site much?

ShayneTr: Mostly Artist's Toolkit

KevanN: OK - that is still here in addition to lots of other ones that were not available before

KevanN: A number of these resources were found at the specific museum sites before (the MIA and the Walker) and you had to leave ArtsConnectEd to find them. That is no longer true.

KevanN: Try clicking on one that you find interesting. There will be a link to where the site exists that you can click on

KevanN: I just clicked on 5 Facts Around the World at the Time of Columbus...

KevanN: There are a series of artworks from the MIA's collection and a series of

activities that are also included that are centered around this period

ShayneTr: I like how the art is grouped together in topics. I also like the sets on the home page.

KevanN: Yes, this is a much more organized / interactive format than had been available in the past

ShayneTr: And can be tied in to curriculum strands

KevanN: That's right! Lots of possibilities for cross curricular instruction

KevanN: A singular difference at the moment is that Art Collector has now been restricted to the images that exist either in the 2 museums or to others that are available through Flickr - no more using html text to link to images that are simply online some place

ShayneTr: Is there a plan to expand to other institutions or is that too much of a copyright nightmare?

KevanN: The expanded functionality that exists in the other areas of the newly designed ArtsConnectEd site, however, offers a lot of additional tools that will more than compensate....I think so but right now this is the BETA version and experimentation is the name of the game

KevanN: Fair Share is still alive and well in the museum world

KevanN: Search strategies are also being broadened to include the incorporation of tags to make searches more akin to those available in Wikipedia

ShayneTr: Can teachers build their own sets, like the ones on the front page? I would really like that!

KevanN: Yes you can - go to the Art Collector tab at the top of the page to begin making your own

KevanN: You can elect to share them or not as well

KevanN: Once you log back in after you have created a set, it will be saved in your Art Collector set collection

ShayneTr: I don't see instructions on how to add art work.

KevanN: Do you see the Create a Set function?

ShayneTr: I created a set called "impressionism" (assuming you had some art from that

period).

ShayneTr: And I see how to add text to a slide, but not art.

KevanN: go to the Art Finder screen

KevanN: Search for work that you think would fit in your collection / set

KevanN: Perhaps going to the 1st tab would be the most helpful to start - Works of Art

KevanN: enter the appropriate keyword and click Go

ShayneTr: OK, got it. Beside the work, there is Item Actions, Add to Set.

KevanN: I just entered Impressionism and got 7 images - yes, add them to your Set

ShayneTr: And then you can go back to Art Collector and add your own notes. Cool.

ShayneTr: OK - Suggestion. This should be written down in a FAQ or Instructions, a step by step for doing this.

ShayneTr: It is not that intuitive. Since this is still sort of Beta, could that be done.

KevanN: Agreed...did you check out the Help screen?

ShayneTr: I see it. Maybe there could be a link, "How to create Art collector Sets" from the appropriate page, though.

KevanN: As in a lot of online help functions, knowing exactly how to phrase the question is crucial to getting the right answers, but it is better than nothing in a pinch. I agree that the directions could be more direct and I am fairly sure that will be one of the 1st changes

KevanN: Here is a new feature that is very nice though,,,,

KevanN: If you scroll over the full image of the artwork that you are looking at, there is a seamless zoom feature that is exceptionally good and fast

KevanN: You can navigate the zoom with the slider bar and then move the rose colored box to exactly where you want to see the enlarged portion of the image...pretty slick!

ShayneTr: Nice. You can see the texture! I'm always talking about texture and strokes with my students!

KevanN: Of course since I am on a dial up connection at home, 'I use the term 'quick' in more of a wishful that literal context (grin)

ShayneTr: Ahrgh! I'm sorry...

KevanN: It is still better than getting yelled at by the security guards, though...lol!

KevanN: I am one of those 20 million Americans living in the country where no access to DSL, cable or Wi-Fi is yet a reality

KevanN: Someday...

ShayneTr: I'll keep my fingers crossed for you.

KevanN: Well, that is about all I have to share at the moment. I plan on being back online on 6/10 with more information relating to the features that are now here. Perhaps you will have more to share then as well if you are around!?

ShayneTr: I'll try... my schedule is somewhat unpredictable but I'll put it on the calendar. Thank you so much. I think over the summer I'll try to create some sets to enhance my lessons. I like that you can add video, etc.

ShayneTr: Thanks Kevan!

KevanN: In the meantime, keep playing! That is still an important learning strategy here and one you will never tire of. Thanks you Shayne!

ShayneTr: bye!