



## INTERNET SITES WITH VISUAL ARTS THEMES:

Cyberkids: <http://www.cyberkids.com>

Cyberkids is an online community for kids from all over the world, designed to allow them to share their thoughts and ideas with each other, through writing and art. Registration is required, but this is free, and membership of the Cyberkids Club allows children to post messages, chat, enter competitions, submit drawings, pieces of art and written pieces and download free software. The site showcases a gallery of children's art and also children's writings, multi-media work, music and poetry.

Kids Castle: <http://kidscastle.si.edu/>

KidsCastle is a Smithsonian site; advertising itself as a safe, educational, free and fun place for kids aged 8-16. It features articles written for children on a variety of subjects, which will interest them and links to various children's magazine sites. It contains an art section, which allows children to select information from message topics, facts and photos sections or from featured articles. When this reviewer dropped in the last time, information was available on the work of Rene Lalique, sculpture to play with and children's favourite crafts. This is an excellent all-round site...for the other subject areas also.

The @rtroom: [http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/rt\\_room](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/rt_room)

The @rtroom states that its mission is to provide a virtual learning environment for exploring the world of art. The site is designed for children from 8+, but parents and teachers will also find lots of ideas here. On entering through the doorway it is possible to access a variety of art projects, learn how to think like an artist, visit exhibitions of artwork by children, discover facts about artists and art history, peruse a selection of books about art written for kids and link to other sites dedicated to children's art education.

Capital Children's Museum: <http://www.ccm.org/>

This is the site belonging to the famous children's museum in Washington D.C.. On it you can view permanent and current exhibitions from the gallery. A particular exhibit is featured each month e.g. when this review was being written the featured exhibition was "Forever Young – A Portrait of the Black Child", an exhibition



featuring the photography of Nestor Hernandez accompanied by the poetry of Laini Mataka.....a feast of wonderful black/white photography with a direct link to the photographer's own site. The work of children who take part in the gallery workshops is also featured and it is worthwhile checking out the gallery of WebPages created by children during these workshops.

Scholastic: <http://scholastic.com/>

The Scholastic site has separate sites catering for children, parents and teachers. The teacher section includes lesson plan sections, professional resources, research tools and various online activities. The lesson plan/reproducible section allow you to search for information by both topic and class level. When this reviewer searched for art lesson plans I was rewarded with about fifty separate good art lessons ranging from designing a coat of arms to Japanese calligraphy. The site also has a guide to other art education sites, what is different about this here is that each site is reviewed by teachers.....in all an excellent resource bank for the teacher.

Sandford Lifetime of Colour: <http://www.sandford-artedventures.com>

This is one of the most comprehensive sites in the field of visual art education. It offers lots of hands-on activities and has a sizeable bank of teacher resources, suggested lesson plans and general information. Under the section on art study you can find an art timeline, artists biographies and a glossary of art terms. It also features a number of on-line activities and a simple "introduction" section, which deals with various art theories and elements.....this feature, is updated on a regular basis. You will certainly find activities suitable for any age group here.

Kid's Space: <http://www.kids-space.org/>

This is another global forum type-site for children's creative efforts where they can share their artwork, their written work, their music and can select pen friends from around the world. It has an excellent children's art gallery with an attached search engine and an interesting section on traditional costume. It also showcases stories written by children, offers an online concert and has a section providing information on different countries and regions around the globe. This is one site, which all kids will like.



International Child Art Foundation: <http://www.icafe.org/>

The ICAF is a non-profit making organisation, based in the USA, which celebrates children's art, imagination and creativity. Through art, which the foundation views as a universal language, its stated aim is to advance cooperation and communication among the world's children. The site showcases some wonderful children's art in a gallery section, provides links to many other art education sites and has a good selection of art lessons for teachers to try out. The foundation also publishes "Child Art" magazine and information on this is available on the site.

Global Children's Art Gallery: <http://www.naturalchild.com/>

The Global Children's Art Gallery is part of the Natural Child Project site and has probably the best selection of children's art on the net. The art on display is truly global with examples from almost every culture and country. Looking at this art should inspire both children and teachers to create their own art in response and could provide an interesting stimulus for talk and discussion, not only about art, but about difference, culture and how life varies around the world.

ArtLex: Visual Arts Directory: <http://www.artlex.com/>

This is the site for you if you are puzzled about what any particular art term or phrase actually means. It contains definitions of more than 3,000 terms (accessed through an alphabetical index) as well as numerous illustrations, interesting quotations from the art world and links to 100 other art sites on the net. This is one for teachers who are really into the arts or for anyone doing research in this area...a real academic's site.

Educational Web Adventures:  
<http://www.eduweb.com/adventure.html>

This is a fantastic site through which to introduce children to the study of visual art. It has wonderful web adventures and online activities in art, science, history and geography. Among the best features on the site are the two art adventure features. "A.Pintura, Art Detective" is an art detective mystery which children are asked to solve and "Inside Art" a wonderful exploration of various paintings. Each of them comes with teaching notes and pupil study worksheets. The site also provides a wide range of teaching resources for all age



levels and an online arts workshop...currently a multimedia puppet show.

Children's Museum of Indianapolis:  
<http://www.childrensmuseum.org/>

This is another excellent website by a museum specially devoted to children. Two of its most interesting sections are "just for teachers" and the "art workshop". The teacher's section suggests valuable resource links as well as offering suggestions on art lessons. The workshop section features an excellent unit of work on sculpture, which outlines the nature, and purpose of sculpture, the variety of materials used in sculpture and has biographies of some modern sculptors showcasing their work.

Art Crimes / Art Links: <http://www.graffiti.org>

"Can graffiti be art?" This most interesting site poses this question. View all kinds of graffiti around the world from cave paintings in France to slogans painted on the sides on New York subway trains. The site can link you to all kinds of other interesting sites dealing with such diverse topics as Public Art on the Internet, Tibetan sand painting, the Diego Rivera Web Museum and scrap metal sculpture. A really interesting site for those who are definitely into the visual arts and who love to surf.

Vincent Van Gogh Information Gallery:  
<http://www.vangoghgallery.com/>

Of all the impressionist/post-impressionist artists, Van Gogh is probably the most popular with children. This site is the ultimate one on which to view the entire collection of his work, all 2,211 pieces!! You can also read his correspondence with his brother, Theo, and receive a free download of all his most famous paintings. This would be a good site through which to introduce children to the use of the Internet, it is wonderfully colourful and easy to navigate through...a visual feast.

Arts ConnectEd: <http://www.artsconnected.org/>

This site is another great one for teachers searching for good art ideas and lessons. Opening the "for your classroom" section gives you access to a search wizard which allows you to search the site database by theme, activity or class level. The site directly links to the main site of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and also to the Walker Art Centre both of which have very interesting things to offer. During the writing



of the review the Minneapolis Institute was featuring science fiction art by looking at the “Star Wars” films.... very topical.