From the Director
Ramona Toussaint

So, I researched the end of realism and a world transformed by industry, mass communication and digital media. I was going to write about the shift in art from pastoral to industrial and an evolving national identity. About how people thought about themselves and interacted with their new environment as we became more of a visual culture.
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Art Spotlight
A Camper’s Collaboration; Imagining America Together

American artists of the past century were some of the most innovative in history, breaking all the rules and re-imagining what could be possible! Campers this week will explore painting, collage, object creation, colored wax, words and symbolism through the eyes of these renegades, and what a thrill it will be! As part of this exploration, Camp Art Academy is partnering with The Cincinnati Arts Association’s Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery’s acclaimed art ambassadorial program, Docentitos, to ensure a fun field trip for our kids while providing docent experience for Docentitos campers! The Docentitos program trains children as docents who serve as guides through the Todd Slaughter: American Primitives exhibit. Campers will tour a diverse collection of artwork by Mr. Slaughter, whose exhibit explores individuality and isolationism in American society. He has created a series of sculptural tableaux that will inspire and engage our curious students. Slaughter’s focus on famous American thinkers such as Thoreau and Emerson perfectly complements this week’s theme of Imagining America, because we will be focusing on independence and seeking novelty in everything we do! The field trip is sure to be a stimulating, enriching, and inspiring experience as well as a chance for our campers to explore new ways of Imagining America.

Meet Our Team
see page 2

Take a closer look at our talented staff. Sam Meador supports artist freedom and creativity beyond painting and drawing.

Up Next Week
Moroccan Bazaar
July 7-12

An eclectic mix of French, Spanish, North African and Middle Eastern cultures, this week promises an exotic artistic adventure!
Register now!

Creative Quote of the Week

“Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.”
-Pablo Picasso

Above image from - Docentito graduation
From the Director...continued

Then, I thought about the courage of the rebels who founded this country and the artist-rebels we are examining this week, and decided to share an excerpt capturing the spirit of what I have learned instead. From Seth Godin, *Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?*

“What makes someone an artist? I don’t think is has anything to do with a paintbrush. There are painters who follow the numbers, or paint billboards, or work in a small village in China, painting reproductions. These folks…aren’t artists. Charlie Chaplin was an artist, beyond a doubt. So is Jonathan Ive, who designed the iPod… there are artists who work with numbers, business models, and customer conversations. Art is about intent and communication, not substance. An artist is someone who uses **bravery, insight, creativity, and boldness** to challenge the status quo. That’s why Bob Dylan is an artist, but an anonymous corporate hack who dreams up Pop 40 hits on the other side of the glass is merely a marketer. That’s why Tony Hsieh, founder of Zappos, is an artist…. Tom Peters, corporate gadfly and writer, is an artist, even though his readers are businesspeople. He’s an artists because he takes a stand, he takes the work personally, and he doesn’t care if someone disagrees…Art is a personal gift that changes the recipient. The medium doesn’t matter. The intent does. **Art is a personal act of courage, something one human does that creates change in another.”** Go ahead, be brave. Create yourself!

#GoAheadCreateYourself,
Ramona Toussaint
Camp Art Academy Director

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**Meet Our Team Spotlight**

**Sam Meador, Empowering Artistic Freedom**

Camp Instructor, **Sam Meador**, has an eclectic arts background; a BFA in Fibers and Material studies, with additional course work in photography, from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and a Masters in Art Education from Case Western Reserve University. Camp Art Academy spoke with her to find out how her believes in artistic freedom all comes together in her teaching.

**What inspired you to become an artist/arts educator?**

**SM:** I come from a family of artists. My grandmother was a portrait painter, and she gave me my first art lessons. When I was a kid, I thought there were only three kinds of art – drawing, painting, and sculpture, and I was not a master at any of them. When I got to college, I learned about other art, like design, photography, and textiles! I decided that I wanted kids to not be limited, to be able to explore all kinds of directions for their talents. Each child simply needs the chance to discover the right path for their particular set of talents and abilities, and I want to help them do that.

**What are you most excited about teaching the campers this week?**

**SM:** I am really excited to hear what each kid thinks about America today, and how they would define or redefine American symbols. Focusing on symbols this week is a way of understanding contemporary America, both traditional symbols like the Statue of Liberty and the flag, as well as more modern symbols, such as the iPod. I want the campers to both reinterpret and create their own set of symbols for America. I am really excited to work on a really BIG scale. This is something that they don’t get to do at school and it’s one of the many benefits of attending Camp Art Academy.

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Keep Up with Your Camper!

See all of the wonderful things your child is doing in camp by connecting with us on social media.

@aaccommunifyed
#GoAheadCreateYourself