Art Spotlight

Campers Find Their Own Improvisational Style

Campers will dive headfirst into the world of jazz, full of rhythm, color, and free improvisation. Our guest artist this week is Bach and Boombox, with a presentation and performance lead by cellist Nathaniel (Nate) Chaikin, who will help us open our ears and our eyes to the world of music! Bach and Boombox will include pieces by Bach and other classical composers on the cello, and “boombox” recordings by pop and jazz artists from Glenn Miller to Macklemore.

![Bach & Boombox](image)

Insightful commentary, virtuoso playing as well as funny stories illuminate how music has much more in common with visual art than we might think. According to Nat, all good musicians, from Bach to James Brown, build on little repeated ideas to create their music - jazz musicians especially love to play around with these “building blocks” when they improvise. Campers explore how composers like Thelonious Monk wrote their tunes, and hear how artists like Miles Davis transform a familiar tune into something completely new. *Bach and Boombox* inspires us by learning the creative process of these great artists and helps us discover ways to harness that energy in our own art!
From the Director...continued

That’s what art does, transports us, transforms us, elevates and soothes us. Visual art is ingrained in every other art form and music is no exception. In fact, Paul Klee is quoted saying, “Arts make the invisible visible.” And how true for him as he sought to make visible the distinctive rhythms and defining musical colors found in jazz.

Jazz has always been an urban music evolving from New Orleans style (Dixieland) to Swing to Modern Jazz; Bebop, cool and progressive jazz, and the seemingly structure-less type. More than just music, it was a cultural movement. Its velocity, complexity, spontaneity and dissonance embodied compelling aspects of modernism — qualities of pure inspiration to visual artists who thought, “If music could do that, why can’t I?”. Artists such as Bearden, Pollock and Davis endeavored to free themselves from standardized styles and “break all the rules”. You see, unlike most communication (discourse), music and the visual arts communicate through a feeling received only through direct personal experience. It is the personal response to a work of art that imparts intrinsic benefits — the “pleasure principle”.

Arts advocates tend to “A-B-J” (Always Be Justifying) why art is important. Somewhere in all those statistics on how good art is for you we need to remember that people are drawn to the arts not for the practical, but because it provides them with meaning and pleasure and special emotional experience. Not only is this experience satisfying in itself but it can lead to the development of individual capacities and community cohesiveness that are of benefit to the public. This is why the Art Academy of Cincinnati recognizes that community art outreach is so important.

So, as summer winds down, I thank you for choosing Camp Art Academy and we hope our program enriched the lives of your child in head and heart. It has been a delight to see them learn, make new friends, take chances and develop new skills, but most of all enjoy themselves! “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end” (Semi-sonic). “Oops, I did it again.”

In Inspiration,
Ramona Toussaint
Camp Art Academy Director

Meet Our Team
Art That Moves Body and Soul, Logan Carver

Instructor, Logan Carver, has a BFA from UC’s DAAP and works primarily with drawing. His first summer as a Camp Art Academy Instructor, he is one of our success stories... Logan was a camper! With art in his blood, we spoke to him about how it got there.

Your mom is an Instructor at Camp Art Academy this summer and got her Masters degree at the Art Academy too. Following in family footsteps?

LC: Yes, my mom encouraged me, but I was naturally obsessive about drawing as a child. I’m interested in art education because art turned into an important form of self-expression that has helped me get through some tough times. Through drawing, I was able use my inner world to express what I was feeling. I think it’s really important for people, in particular children, to find something that will help them to express themselves.

How have you connected self-expression with this week’s theme, “Art That Swings!”?

LC: We’ll explore how music can move and inspire. We’ll branch out from swing to explore all kinds of music. I’m asking the campers, “What music do you like, and how does it make you feel?” We’re taking those emotions and using them as motive or an idea. Campers then use that incentive to fuel their creativity. Songs are a great way for kids to express themselves, and so a lot of the art we make this week will be connected to music in order to make something incredible!

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

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