

Cats & Dogs: Script / Virtual Tour: UMMA

Slide 1: Title

Cats & Dogs

A Virtual Tour: University of Michigan Museum of Art

Slide 2: Welcome!

Welcome to the University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We're called UMMA (ooh-mah) for short. The building has two parts: a new wing and an older section with columns and steps. Inside, there is art and a cafe and very big elevators.

Slide 3: Join us for a field trip today!

Join us for a field trip today! Let's imagine that you just arrived at UMMA with your friends and teacher.

Slide 4: Entry

We'll enter the new part of the building. It has a stone floor and high ceilings, so sound echoes. It's exciting to be on a field trip with classmates, and everyone bustles about taking off jackets and finding their guides.

Slide 5: Small Groups

Once we settle into small groups, let's explore the art together.

Slide 6: Theme

What will we see? We'll look at art about cats and dogs. Some people say they are "cat people" or "dog people." Every day, my second grader asks me if she can get a dog. Or a cat. She isn't very picky. When we look at artwork, we'll learn some information, and we might have more questions. For example, when I look at this photograph of two doors, one that says "Entrance Cats" and the other that says, "Entrance Dogs," I wonder how the animals read those signs.

Slide 7: Dog Drawings

In our first stop today, let's look at drawings of dogs. What's similar about these two drawings? They both are made with a pen. They both have a little color in them but are mostly black and white. Do you notice anything else that's similar? I think they both look a little scary. They aren't exactly the same, though. One dog is made of thin curvy lines and the other one is sharp and jaggedy and almost looks like a zebra.

Slide 8: Dog Drawing

Here is one more drawing of a dog; this one is sleeping on his side. It feels kind of cozy to me because I can picture my mom's dog resting on the kitchen floor like this. It's interesting that we've seen three drawings and they aren't exactly the same. We're going to look at more

images that were made by different artists, using different art materials. Even though they're all cats and dogs, each artist has his or her own idea about how to show them to you.

Slide 9: Printmaking

Our next stop is three prints of cats. Let's look at the black cat whose eyes are different sizes. The texture behind her looks like rough wood. To make that pattern, the artist, Saito Kiyoshi, carved out a block of wood, rolled ink onto the block, and pressed it onto paper. He could make more than one print of the same design. Another Japanese artist, Inagaki Tomoo, made the print of cats and a lamp post at night. If that big cat in the front could talk, what would he say to us? He kind of looks like he has an attitude.

Slide 10: Printmaking / Stray Dog [Mexico]

The title of this print is called Stray Dog [Mexico]. What clues does that give to us? The buildings look like the style in some parts of Mexico. I notice one person in the very center of the print. Even though the artist doesn't provide a lot of lines or hair, we can take a guess that it's a person wearing a dress and a scarf. That's a good reminder that when we make art, it doesn't have to be perfect or have a lot of detail to get our message across. But where's the stray dog? Can you find it?

Slide 11: Stray Dog [Mexico]

There it is!

Slide 12: Cat Pastel

Now let's look at an art work made with pastels. This cat is called Mr. Spots by artist Sarah Rakes. She created it with pastel sticks, which are like chalk. They are very bright, and you can blend them together with your fingers or a tissue. It looks like Sarah smudged some colors together on Mr. Spots' stomach and around his eyes. This cat pops out for a few reasons: first, the artist chose to outline Mr. Spots with thick black lines and also because he is an orange and pink cat sitting on a bright blue base. These are complementary or opposite colors, which stand out when they are next to each other. One thing I love about this artwork is that Sarah painted the frame to match the feeling of the cat.

Slide 13: Cat Painting

This is a painting by artist Richard Burnside. Do you think it's a cat or a dog? It's called Large Yellow Cat, but I also see other animals, too. Which animals can you find? Two snakes and some kind of insect - maybe a beetle? Paint can go on almost anything - a wall, a piece of paper, a window, or a board. This painting was made on a board, and the artist added other materials - like pinecones - in addition to paint. When you are the artist, you can choose what to include in your painting.

Slide 14: Dog at the Circus Painting

Our next stop is one more painting, this time of dogs. Where are they? What clues can you find? I see clowns. And hoops. And it looks like they are in a tent. I think they are at a circus and the

dogs are performing tricks for the people in the audience. Do you remember the print of the stray dog in Mexico that we saw earlier? This painting of dogs is very different than that one! This has a lot of color and detail and shading. Some of the outfits look fancy, and their clothes don't look like they would be worn today, so maybe it happened many years ago.

Slide 15: Sculpture

When we look at art, we can be detectives and figure out information about people from another place and time. I wonder what we can discover by looking at this three dimensional sculpture? Sometimes we say 3D instead of three dimensional. That means it takes up space and isn't flat. For example, I love this dog's curly tail because it looks so 3D, and I want to straighten it out to see if it springs back.

I would want this dog by my door to guard my house because he looks like he is standing ready to bark. In fact, this sculpture was found in a tomb in China, buried with a person who lived over two thousand years ago. He has a harness, so maybe dogs were pets and taken for walks, just like they are today. People from all times have loved their pets and have wanted to remember them.

Slide 16: Photograph of Space Dogs

We have looked at drawings, prints, pastels, paintings, and sculptures. That's a lot of different ways to show cats and dogs. The last medium, or type of art, that we're going to see is photography. A lot of people take pictures every day with their phones. But years ago, cameras were special equipment, and artists needed special paper and a lot of patience to get their pictures to turn out.

Sometimes my mom dresses up her dog in a bright yellow rain jacket to go on a walk, because he looks cute and she doesn't want him to get wet. But what are these outfits? Where are these dogs going? To the moon! They are Russian dogs suiting up for their space adventure. Do they look excited?

Slide 17: Salvador Dali

Oh my. What is going on here? Cats are flying through the air, water is flowing, a man is jumping, paintings are floating. Yikes. That man is a painter named Salvador Dali. He asked his friend to photograph him and his painting of cats. Photography was kind of new, so people were figuring out how to take a picture at just the right moment and get things in focus. Dali also wondered if a photograph could be similar to a dream - could he rig up a scene that couldn't happen in real life?

Apparently he could. But it took six hours! And twenty six tries to get it right. The photograph was printed in Life magazine, so a lot of people saw the final version, and they also published the other attempts as well so everyone knew how difficult it was. All the furniture was held up with wire, Salvador Dali jumped in the air, three assistants threw the cats, and one tossed the water - all at the same time!

Slide 18: Optional Activities

I do not recommend that you try to recreate the Salvador Dali photograph at home. But you could draw a cat or dog on paper. Or you could use chalk on the sidewalk. Or you could choose a pinecone and paint. Or you could make a 3D pet out of empty toilet paper rolls stuck together. There are so many ways to make art. If kids in one hundred years found your artwork of a dog or cat, what would they learn about you?

Slide 7:

Beware of the Dog, Paul Wunderlich (left)

Dog and Bird, Carlos Coffeen Serpas

Slide 8:

Sleeping Dog, Robert Parker

Slide 9:

Steady Gaze (Cat), Saitô Kiyoshi (left)

Steady Gaze (Cat), Saito Kiyoshi (center)

Cats, Inagaki Tomoo (right)

Slide 10 & 11:

Stray Dog [Mexico], Saitô Kiyoshi

Slide 12:

Mr. Spots, Sarah Rakes

Slide 13:

Large Yellow Cat, Richard Burnside

Slide 14:

Performing Dogs at the Circus, Francisco del Campo

Slide 15:

Dog, Chinese

Slide 16:

Mishka the Space Dog is Being Dressed, While Tsyganka the Other Space Dog is Already Dressed, Dmitri Baltermants

Slide 17:

Dali Atomicus, Philippe Halsman