

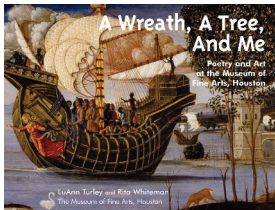
# UIL A+ Art Resources from The Kinder Foundation Education Center

## 2011–12 and 2012–13 School Years

The Kinder Foundation Education Center (KFEC) is your source of information about art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

The following MFAH publications include information about UIL works of art and artists. All resources listed are available from the KFEC Art-To-Go Lending Library, at [www.mfah.org/arttogo](http://www.mfah.org/arttogo).

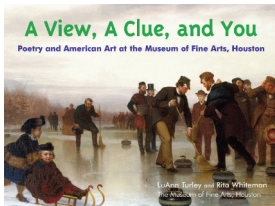
To learn more contact us at 713-639-7843, [resource@mfah.org](mailto:resource@mfah.org), or [www.mfah.org/KFEC](http://www.mfah.org/KFEC).



### *A Wreath, A Tree, and Me: Poetry and American Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

by LuAnn Turley and Rita Whiteman

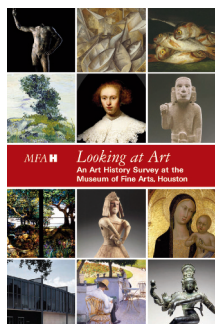
- André Derain, *The Turning Road*



### *A View, A Clue, and You: Poetry and American Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

by LuAnn Turley and Rita Whiteman

- Mary Cassatt, *Children in a Garden (The Nurse)*
- Georgia O'Keeffe, *Red Hill, White Shell*



### *Looking at Art: An Art History Survey at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

- Georgia O'Keeffe, *Red Hill, White Shell*

### *Learning Through Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

Teacher's Guide, Grades 1–3

- André Derain, *The Turning Road*

### *MFAH Art Cards*


Developed specifically for educators, Art Cards are a series of interpretive materials about the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Art Cards can be downloaded and printed at


[www.mfah.org/kfec](http://www.mfah.org/kfec).

Art cards are available for:

- Georgia O'Keeffe, *Red Hill, White Shell*
- Mary Cassatt, *Susan Comforting the Baby*
- Gustave Courbet, *The Gust of Wind*
- Claude Monet, *Water Lilies (Nymphéas)*



**The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**  
*Claude Monet — The Master of Impressionism*



**Artist**  
Although born in Paris, Monet grew up in Le Havre, a port city in Normandy, France, where his previous exposure to the art of the landscape painter Eugène Boudin introduced Monet to the practice of painting *en plein air* (outdoors), a practice which informed Monet's entire career. Although Monet studied with the academician Charles Gleyre in Paris, he always credited nature as his true master. His great pleasure in the contemplation of natural beauty and his desire to capture the essence of nature on canvas led him to a completely new style of painting that would eventually be known as Impressionism. Monet's harmonious combination of unvarnished colors, smaller and more varied brushstrokes, and masterful studies in light presented paintings that provided the absolute pleasure of the immediate impression, while refusing to be completely legible. After many years of struggle, during which Monet experienced extreme poverty, he finally achieved much financial, critical, and popular success. Nearly 70 years old when he completed this canvas, he was still very much in the prime of his career and still pushing the limits of landscape painting.

**Subject Matter**  
Monet purchased his home in Giverny in 1885 and spent the next twelve years planning and cultivating his flower garden. Thanks to his growing success as an artist, Monet was able to employ a staff of six gardeners to help him develop a garden paradise complete with elaborate flower beds, ponds, bridges, and fountains. Monet's garden at Giverny served as his primary subject matter from 1900 until his death in 1926. He completed almost 100 canvases of his garden, which vary in subject matter and effect.

**Claude Monet's work is characterized by:**  
• Impressionistic paintings of landscapes.  
• Intense analysis of nature under different conditions of light and atmosphere.

**Style/Technique**  
Throughout his water lily series, Monet focuses on only one small portion of the pond at Giverny, eliminating any reference to solid land. The flowers blend into the water, while the reflections of sky and trees seem almost as tangible as the water lilies themselves. Monet has created a complex level of illusion by creating a two-dimensional painting of a two-dimensional surface (water) that reflects a three-dimensional world. Although many of his works were painted entirely *en plein air*, his last large canvases of the water lily series were created in a studio built especially for this purpose in the garden of Giverny.

**Context**  
The notion that Monet spent his last few years at Giverny peacefully painting his beloved garden is a myth. In fact, Monet was so incredibly ambitious and obsessive about his water lily series that he is known to have periodically burned or slashed canvases in fits of frustration and self-doubt.