



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Road to Impressionism **Name:** Ronia Davison
Other Team Members:
Program: Oklahoma Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Europe
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: Project Summary:

Fellowship Description:

In order to gain an understanding of how Impressionism developed and eventually survived against all odds, we visited the places of its inception. Paris was the first stop on our knowledge quest. As Travelers we walked the streets of Impressionist Paris: along the Seine, through the bustling grand boulevards, to the cafés of Pigalle and the dance halls of Montmartre. We stood in the exact locations where the Impressionists painted. We followed in the footsteps of the artists from the Pont Neuf depicted by Monet and Renoir to the intersection where Caillebotte painted his haunting street scene. We looked down from the balcony of the Louvre where Monet literally and figuratively turned his back on the establishment to view the Tuileries Gardens. We took several walking tours of Paris viewing the Moulin Rouge, Sacre Couer, Notre Dame and even the cemetery where Manet and Berthe Morisot are buried. We spent hours looking at and photographing Impressionist paintings in Musee de Orsay, L'Orangerie, and Martmonte. We embarked on several day tours. Just as Monet, we rode the train from Gare St. Lazare, and ventured to Monet's home in Giverny. We then traveled to the seaside of Le Harve and Honfluer once again following in the footsteps of Monet to see the birthplace of Impressionism. Seeking to see the inspiration of van Gogh's Starry Night we journeyed to Arles in Southern France. Our train ride afforded us the opportunity to see the majestic Cyprus trees, wheat fields and distant mountains that all served as inspiration to many of the Impressionists including, Sisley, Caillebotte, and Gaugin. Culminating the first leg of our journey we left Paris crossing the border of Belgium and ventured to the Netherlands to visit van Gogh's homeland and the renowned van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. The second leg of this journey was to find connections to Impressionism in different European venues. In Switzerland we toured a castle in Gruyere which showcased a room painted by pre-impressionist Caillebotte. In Rome we visited the Renoir exhibit that had a traveling collection of paintings from all over the world, including Norman, Okalahoma. In London, we viewed the Thames River and the Parliament Building that served as inspiration to Monet. We spent hours at the Tate and National Gallery viewing their Impressionist collections. We concluded our five week journey with a stop in New York City to view the extensive Impressionist exhibit in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

When thinking about our teaching practices we wanted to learn how to teach our students to see in a new way. As classroom teachers at an arts integration school we realized that creative thinking is not a station one arrives at, but a means of traveling. Our team holds the pedagogical belief that we strive to join artistic learning with what our students think and with what our students feel. Having seen the world through the lens of Impressionism we find ourselves more equipped to guide our students to be creative thinkers and to see beyond the obvious.

Inspiration

As we were in the process of working together to create a multi age interdisciplinary study on Impressionism, the idea of actually visiting Europe to research in depth the Impressionist movement emerged. Our goal has always been to offer our students a realistic learning experience. As we studied, we felt a commonality between the Impressionist and ourselves as teachers, because like them we have struggled in pursuit of our instructional passions just as they struggled in pursuit of their artistic passions. As we sought resources, we were so moved by the pictures we saw, that we wanted to offer our students more than simple art reproductions. We wanted to capture the essence of Impressionistic Europe and convey these images to our students. What better way than to bring it back to our students authentic experiences.

Career Impact: Professional and Personal Growth

Monet said, "The point of Impressionism is to teach people to see in a new way." After spending twelve days in Paris learning about Impressionist we found ourselves observing our surroundings differently. We adopted the Impressionist attitude of embracing the beauty found in simple things: streaming rivers, flowers, rolling hills, waterfalls and fallen trees. As we walked we took notice of the bustle of the ordinary activities of daily life. Standing below the cool mist of Trumelbach Falls we had an epiphany: Even though we could not physically bring our students to this reverent place, we could offer them the opportunity to discover the beauty that already exists in the world around them.

Classroom/Community Impact:Benefits to School and Community

Originally we planned to travel to the Art Institute of Chicago to view their expansive collection of Impressionist art. Before leaving we learned that the Impressionist exhibit was on loan to the Kimball Art Museum in Dallas. Plans were made for our entire teaching staff to venture to Dallas to see this temporary Impressionist exhibit. In July, post fellowship, our staff had the opportunity to view Monet's Garden, Manet's boats, van Gogh's bed, Gauguin's Tahitian natives, Caillebotte's wheat fields, and Sisely's village just as we had experienced in numerous museums in Europe. This learning experience united us as a staff and provided a launch of our year long study of Impressionism. We brought back seventy books related to Impressionism that have been placed in the library for checkout and use by staff, students and parents. We have been asked to speak to local civic organizations to give detailed accounts of this trip and how it has impacted our instructional practices.

Open Response: Works in Progress

We are designing an instructional unit on Impressionism and Impressionists that will become a school wide educational event that will last for three days and involve all students k-8. Beyond that we are working on the development of outdoor wellness walk and an outdoor art exploration and learning area. Our ultimate goal is to take learning outside through various stations. Implementation of this plan will require coordination with our PTA, City Parks and Recreation Director and our school district, community arts and historical foundation. Fund raising, grant writing and matching funds will be required.

Quote: We have provided a love of learning, an excitement for books, the solution of numbers, the mystery of science, and a sense of history. Our vision is to go beyond even these high expectations which have provided our students with academic success, int

Photos:



Looking from the Louvre



Looking over the Rhone River



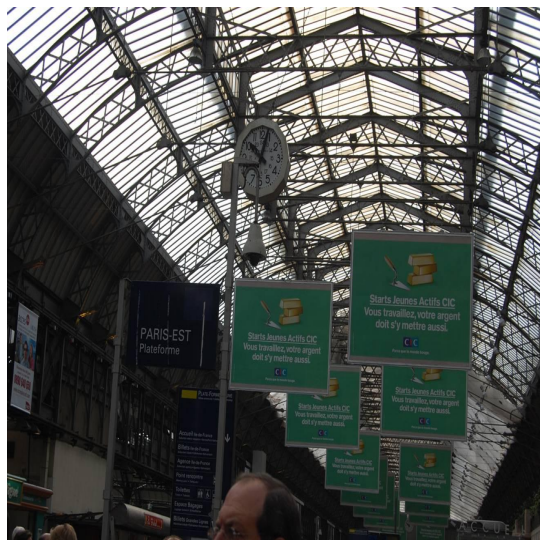
Monet's Bridge



Moulin Rouge



Painter at Le Harve



Paris



Parliament



Wheat field