



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** "Rejuvenating Creativity In Florence" a drawing and writing workshop in Europe **Name:** JoZeph Zaremba

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** EL Education Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

**Location Visited:** Florence, Italy

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 02

**Project Summary:** Having flown to Florence, Italy, for an eight day Writing and Drawing Workshop, I feel that I am now prepared to inspire a series of creative exercises involving visualization, drawing, writing, map-making, sharing, memoirs and story telling that will stimulate students to find inspiration in their own world .

Inspired by the spirit of the Renaissance and the spark that dramatically changed 14th century scholars and artists attitude towards how they looked at the world, I too as an artist and a teacher wanted experience and ignite a similar spark for myself and all my students. I longed to visit the "master artists" of the Italian Renaissance that I only read about or viewed in books. I desired to stand in front of their paintings and see each brush stroke, to experience the three-dimensional quality of their sculptures unattainable in books, to walk around, in, and beneath the domes and architecture that made Florence so important. By walking the streets of Florence, keeping an artistic journal and taking a creative writing class I discovered not only the heart of the city but the creative possibilities within my own personal and teaching practices.

Italy's freedom to dream, write and draw allowed me to also discover one of my newest personal realizations of an "omnipresence" of place, time and artifacts. This new awareness helped enriched my creative insights and defined for me the true importance of having authentic fieldwork.

**Career Impact:** By traveling outside the United States for the first time and overcoming a larger fear of flying, I could not have imagined the self-confidence and inspiration for further travel that this fellowship would ignite in me. During my eight day workshop, I gained knowledge and new creative possibilities of engaging my students in the process of writing and drawing, equally, through a number of diverse "entry points."

While keeping a daily artistic journal in Italy, I found myself routinely challenged to balance enough journaling time while engaged in the excitement of exploring and visiting the many museums, churches and monuments. I found myself, through classroom conversations, constantly questioning lessons learned and lessons to be developed from the many mosaics, frescoes, doors, and journaling activities I was coming in contact with throughout Florence.

Although my own classes will have just recently started in September, plans to integrate and share many of the activities learned in my creative workshop with students and teachers have already begun. By using many of the photographs taken, having each student keep an artistic journal, and by teaching an additional Renaissance Elective, students will explore beyond the classroom themselves and their own city through creative reflections and authentic fieldwork, just as I experienced through my fellowship.

**Classroom/Community Impact:** Eager to share my fellowship experience with my students and colleagues, plans have already been made to use creative writing workshop activities I have learned as part of our Summer Institute Diversity Session as well as part of the Art Rooms opening ceremonies at the start of the school year. Because of this Fellowship, Art and Literacy will set a new direction for this year's artistic curriculum encouraging students to gain more self-confidence, fluency and new perspective, using metaphors, memoirs, storytelling and journaling, in combination with hands on art related activities that enrich writing skills in other core classes. I have become energized and determined by this experience to ignite the creative spirit of each student with a new classroom renaissance by creating classroom routines and exploration through the arts. In addition to my regular duties I plan on developing and teaching a new artistic journal elective as a way for students become engaged in their own personal desire to learn.

**Open Response:** Italy and the Creative Writing class have empowered me beyond my wildest dreams, revitalizing me to continue my experience here at home. Starting with a new daily discipline of walking, free-writing and keeping an artistic journal, I have become an unexpected work in progress myself, a discipline I hope to share with my students. Eager to build onto my Fellowship experience I have registered to take a Renaissance Painting class at Massachusetts College of Art this fall, so that I may in turn learn and teach my students painting skills of the Italian masters. In addition to a new art elective and collaborating with academic class teachers I plan to share my journal publicly on-line with selected photos and lesson plans as a way to comprehend content creatively.

**Quote:** Funds for Teachers has given form to dreams that I once could only imagine. Now I have had the chance to live a dream.



Photos:



posing in front of the Neptune's fountain



Piazza della Signoria, Neptune's fountain



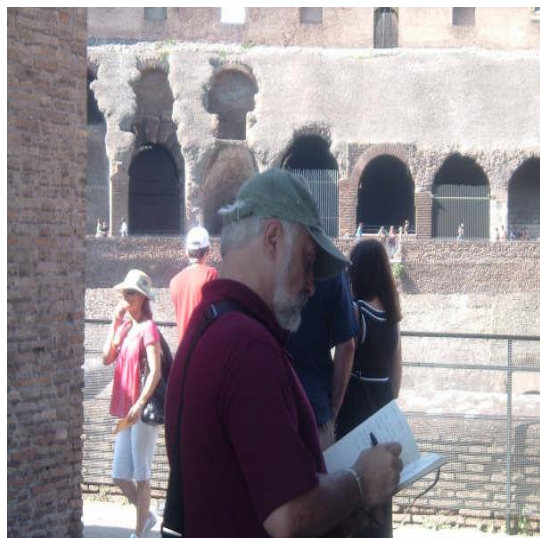
Ghibertio's doors of "Paradise"



Michelangelo's David and Cellini's Perseus at Piazza della Signoria



working on the Workshop floor



Inspired by time and "place", drawing and writing in the Roman Arena



The Duomo, Santa Maria Del Fiore



drawing David at the top of Piazza del Michelangelo