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Art Studio

The Art Studio is committed to providing high quality programming in the arts. Through a variety of programs which include a Public Art Program, guided programs, classes, and workshops, our goal is to encourage students of all ages to make, appreciate, and think about art. Although often inspired by the Museum's exhibitions, these programs are focused on the learner by providing first-hand encounters with what it means to create. From the very first marks made by our youngest visitors to those who are practicing artists, we strive to provide opportunities for all to show their aesthetic sensibilities and thought processes as they explore materials and design, construct relationships, and visually represent their strategies and procedures.

Based on the ateliers of Reggio Emilia, programs in the Art Studio feature a variety of materials and techniques in order to promote the process of "thinking" with our hands, eyes, and sensibilities, as well as our brains. By using one's visual language as a means of inquiry and investigation of the world, the cognitive and expressive processes are joined in the development of knowledge. Whether through the drop-in Public Art Program available to all visitors whenever the Museum is open, the group programs which include a gallery and studio component, or the many workshops and classes offered by teaching artists, we are guided by the belief that encounters with materials teach us about ourselves, heighten our awareness of the world around us, and promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the visual arts.

In recognition of others' contributions to our learning, staff in the Art Studio take on the dual roles of facilitator and co-learner. We strive to engage visitors in discussions about art and art making, provide information on tools and techniques wherever appropriate, and refine and improve upon the program based on visitor observations. Using the featured materials and tools, visitors choose their own paths of exploration and expression. Aware of the fact that many visitors may not know where to begin or would not describe themselves as "artistically inclined," we encourage play/experimentation. Studio displays, which feature the work of our visitors, provide a source of inspiration and pay homage to the many levels of artistic expression.

For more information on the Art Studio and its programs please contact Meghan Burch at meghanb@carlemuseum.org or Diana MacKenzie at dianam@carlemuseum.org or call (413) 658-1133.

[For further reading in connection with The Carle's underlying philosophy and approach to art making:](#)

The Reggio Emilia Approach to the Education of Young Children
www.reggioalliance.org

Visual Thinking Strategies
www.vtshome.org