

# Images & Words 2002

A High School  
Literature and Arts Program from  
the Utah Museum of Fine Arts  
University of Utah

Funded in part by the  
Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts,  
and Parks Program



UMFA's Images and Words Project meets the following Ninth Grade Literary Arts Core Standards. However, the general skills are appropriate for any students old enough to write well. Although a museum visit is an important part of this project, you can also adapt the project to do within your classroom using images of artworks.

#### Ninth Grade Literary Arts Core

##### Standard 3

Students use comprehension strategies before, during, and after listening.

##### Standard 5

Students use comprehension strategies before, during, and after viewing.

##### Standard 6

Students view functional, informational, and literary materials from different periods, cultures, and genres.

##### Standard 7

Students use composing strategies before writing.

##### Standard 8

Students use composing strategies to construct a written draft

##### Standard 9

Students revise and edit to improve a written draft.

##### Standard 10

Students write functional, informational, and literary texts for various purposes, audiences, and situations.

##### Standard 11

Students use process strategies before, during, and after speaking.

##### Standard 12

Students speak in functional, informational, and literary situations for various purposes and audiences.

**For some great examples of students' work from this program, go to <http://www.utah.edu/umfa/imagesandwords.html>**

# History of the Images and Words Program

In 1994 The Utah Museum of Fine Arts and the English Department of Highland High School cooperated on a pilot program to integrate the visual arts with creative writing. The project was based on the premise that responding to the visual arts is like responding to literature.

The program entitled *Images and Words* targeted all ninth grade English students and began in the classroom with the teachers teaching a unit on creative writing. The teachers prepared the students throughout the year for the culmination of the unit, a creative piece of writing inspired by a work of art. The next stage was the visit to each classroom in the spring by a docent (a museum teacher). Each docent who visited the classes introduced the students to the idea of "reading" and being able to respond to art. The next part of the program involved bringing the students to the museum for a short tour then allowing them an hour to explore the Museum and select two or three works of art.

Following the Museum visit, each student created a piece of writing (poem, essay, short story, letter to the artist, etc.) in response to one of their selected works. The students in each class then selected two examples as the most effective pieces and those were displayed at the Museum near the works of art. The pieces were also published in booklet form and given to all the students whose works were selected. A reception for all the students was given at the end of the school year at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.



**Raven Mask**  
Northwest Coast Indian  
Kwakiutl people  
Wood and pigment  
The Ulfert Wilke Collection of the Friends of the Art  
Museum, Acc. 81.16.2

## **The Raven Mask**

*by Tera Hunter*

Highland High School 1995

The Raven Mask knows . . .  
Knows that it once had meaning  
Knows that it once was worshiped  
Knows of the past.

The Raven Mask waits . . .  
Waits for the significance it once had  
Waits for the stories to be told again  
Waits in the present.

The Raven Mask longs . . .  
Longs for eager hands to touch it  
Longs for loving eyes to caress it  
Longs for the future.

The Raven Mask understands  
Understands the relentless passage of time.

# Images and Words

## Goals and Responsibilities

After the second successful year of the program with Highland High School, the Salt Lake School District approached the Museum and asked if the Images and Words program could be expanded to include all the ninth grade English classes at the four High Schools in the district. The program was expanded to three of the high schools in 1996. With the Zoo, Arts and Parks tax money in 1998, the program was expanded to allow any high school in Salt Lake County to participate. In 1998, the Museum also began publishing the students works not only in booklet form, but also on the Museum's homepage on the Internet ([www.utah.edu/umfa/imagesandwords.html](http://www.utah.edu/umfa/imagesandwords.html)). Listed here are the goals of the program and the responsibilities of the Museum and the schools. The coordinator at the Museum for the Images and Words program is Virginia Catherall 585-7163.

### Goals for Images and Words:

1. As stated in the Utah core curriculum high school course description for language arts: "[to give] Students multiple opportunities to practice writing, to increase fluency, to generate ideas, and to begin to emphasize correctness in finished pieces."
2. To teach the students that visual images can communicate to them just as written text can communicate.
3. To teach the students that their individual interpretations of art are perfectly legitimate.
4. To expose the students to a museum experience and to show them that museums are vibrant places filled with ideas from various cultures and time periods.

### Museum's responsibilities:

The Museum will coordinate and conduct the classroom presentations as well as the Museum visits. The Museum will pay for materials used in the presentations, the Images and Words publication for each high school, and the reception for the students. The Museum is responsible for putting all the chosen works on the Museum's homepage on the Internet. The Museum will also be responsible for presenting the program to other museums and museum educators either in symposia, workshops, or other contacts. Teachers' materials may be used for these presentations with full credit given to teachers and schools.

### Schools' responsibilities:

The teacher is responsible for the scheduling of his or her classroom presentation and Museum visit. Each teacher is expected to make a commitment to help carry out the program in the classroom. This means teaching a unit on creative writing incorporating the Images and Words program and writing curriculum material for the students (i.e. writing assignments, worksheets for the museum visit, support assignments for the classroom visit, etc.). The other teachers in the schools will also need to support the program as the students will miss a half day of classes to be able to come to the Museum. The school will need to schedule and pay for the substitute teachers for the days the classes visit the Museum and pay the expenses of the buses. We also encourage the school to give the students whose works are selected a certificate of achievement.

### Dates of Program:

Classroom visit by Museum docents: March and April, 2002

Museum Tours: April 8 - April 30, 2002

Written works due at the Museum on computer disk: May 3, 2002

Reception at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts: May 15, 2002

Exhibition of Students' written works in the Museum: May 15 - June 31, 2002

# Utah Museum of Fine Arts

## The Images and Words Program in a Nutshell

1. Images and Words is open to all high school classes in Salt Lake County.
2. Museum docents will visit each classroom and give a presentation in preparation for the Museum visit on how to look and “read” art.
3. The students will visit the Museum and receive a 20 min. tour and then be left on their own to select around 3 works of art and take notes on the pieces (see enclosed sample Museum worksheet).
4. The students will then go back to the classroom and take 1-2 weeks to create an original piece of writing (poem, essay, short story, letter to the artist, etc.) in response to one of their selected works.
5. The students and teacher in each class will then select two examples from their class (or another class to make it more impartial) as the most effective pieces.
6. The selected works will be displayed in the Museum in the same gallery as the work of art that inspired them.
7. All the selected pieces will be published in booklet form and given to all the teachers and students whose works were selected. The pieces will also be published on our webpage.
8. A reception for the students, their families, and teachers will be given at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts in May.



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Paul Manship, 1885-1966  
**Morning**, 1938  
Bronze  
The Marriner S. Eccles Foundation for the  
Marriner S. Eccles Collection, Acc. 1983.5