

Aesthetic Education – What Happens During the School Year?

After completing participation in professional development courses during Summer Session, where specific works of art are explored, enrolled teacher teams select two of the available works of art - **focus works** - for study in the classroom during the upcoming school year.

Educators are assigned teaching artists based upon their chosen focus works. Teachers then use the knowledge and skills they acquired during Summer Session to design a classroom curriculum in collaboration with the teaching artist. Each curriculum is based on one of the selected focus works. The curriculum is custom-tailored to the particular group of students, depending on their age, strengths and needs, and integrated with topics they are exploring in other subject areas.

As part of the unit, students study the performance or art work in the same way their teacher did at Summer Session: through hands-on artistic experience interwoven with reflection that can lead to imaginative leaps and interpretations. The classroom teacher and teaching artist jointly deliver the curriculum. Four classroom sessions are facilitated by the teaching artist, and at least three are facilitated by the partnering teacher. Students also view a live performance of the focus work or an exhibition of the visual art either at the McCallum or at the school. Each enrolled teacher commits to two units of study per school year.