



FALL 2024 HIGH SCHOOL TOUR CURRICULUM

Beauty in Humble Places

David Lanier

August 29, 2024 -January 4, 2025| Haley Gallery

David Lanier, born in 1962 in Albany, Georgia, is a renowned realist artist whose deep affinity for nature is evident in his meticulous paintings of wildlife, landscapes, and sporting scenes. Influenced by his upbringing in the Southeastern United States, where outdoor activities like camping and hunting were formative, Lanier began his artistic journey during his studies at the Ringling School of Art. His process is marked by careful planning and multiple sketches to refine composition, lighting, and color schemes before committing to canvas. Lanier's dedication to traditional methods underscores his commitment to authenticity and emotional depth in his portrayals, particularly in his celebrated depictions of bird dogs, which capture their role in quail hunting, and their cultural significance in Southern heritage.

A significant theme in Lanier's work is conservation, particularly through his portrayal of controlled burns and the preservation of the Bobwhite quail population in South Georgia. His paintings depict the beauty of these controlled fires and educate viewers on their ecological benefits, such as habitat maintenance and pest control. Lanier's advocacy extends to the Bobwhite quail, a species emblematic of Southern tradition, highlighting the efforts of conservation organizations in preserving their habitats through sustainable land management practices. His art is a powerful tool for raising awareness about environmental issues and fostering a deeper connection between viewers and the natural world.

Students visiting the David Lanier exhibition at the Albany Museum of Art will gain insights into both the artistic process and the importance of conservation in Southern ecosystems. Through Lanier's meticulous approach and profound subject matter, students appreciate the intersection of art and environmental advocacy, encouraging them to engage critically with the issues of sustainability and cultural heritage. This free field trip opportunity enriches their understanding of regional artistry and inspires a sense of stewardship towards the landscapes and wildlife depicted in Lanier's poignant paintings. This immersive encounter is an educational bridge, fostering a deeper understanding of the local and regional context from which the artist draws inspiration. By connecting with Lanier's portrayal of South Georgia, students appreciate artistic expression and gain insights into the cultural fabric that shapes their surroundings. This holistic experience lays the foundation for a well-rounded education, nurturing critical thinking while fostering an appreciation for the interconnectedness of art, science, and culture.



GADOE STANDARDS TO BE MET THROUGH THIS EXHIBITIONS

The relationship of this exhibition to Science, English/Language Arts, and Visual Arts, is presented in Georgia's Standards of Excellence. This exhibition provides students opportunities to grow appreciation and an understanding of the artistic process; explore how art, human connection, and language merge; and gain critical thinking skills, visual critique, and literacy. For a list of specific standards to be addressed on your class trip, please email AMA Director of Education and Public Programming at Annie.vanoteghem@albanymuseum.com.

This lesson plan connects high school science students with the conservation themes in David Lanier's artwork. Through a pre-visit introduction, an on-site exploration of the exhibition, and a post-visit analysis, students will gain a deeper understanding of conservation science and its representation in art. The focus will be on the ecological importance of controlled burns, habitat restoration, and the role of species like the Bobwhite quail in South Georgia ecosystems.

Learning Objectives:

Explain the science behind conservation practices such as controlled burns and habitat restoration.

Analyze how David Lanier uses art to convey scientific concepts related to conservation.

Reflect on the relationship between art, science, and environmental advocacy.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

This optional pre-visit activity will introduce students to conservation and how art can help us appreciate and protect nature. It will also Prepare students for their visit to the museum by familiarizing them with the themes they will encounter.

Discussion: Nature & Art

Discuss the importance of conservation in maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Introduce the concept of controlled burns, their ecological benefits, and the role of habitat restoration in preserving species like the Bobwhite quail. Start with a class discussion on what conservation means. Assign students to read articles or excerpts on the science behind controlled burns and the ecological importance of the Bobwhite quail. Show a few examples of art that focus on environmental themes. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a topic related to conservation in South Georgia (e.g., controlled burns, habitat preservation, the importance of native species like the Bobwhite quail). Bring the groups back together and have each share what they learned. Discuss how they think these topics might be represented in art.

- Ask students to consider what they hope to learn or see during their museum visit, focusing on how art can inspire people to care about conservation. Discussion Questions: Why are controlled burns important for ecosystems like those in South Georgia? How can art influence public perception of scientific issues?
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Museum Etiquette:

Before your arrival, please share basic museum etiquette with your students, i.e., looking with our eyes (not our hands), walking (not running), and using a low-volume speaking voice in the galleries.

FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

Gather in AMazing Space:

Students will be introduced to the role of museums in our community and why they are so important to us.

Gallery Tour: Art & Nature

An educator will introduce David Lanier as an artist who loves to paint pictures of nature, like trees, animals, and the sky. Discussion Points include the concepts of conservation and beauty of nature, how to “read” art using Visual Thinking Strategies, how art calls us as viewers into action, etc.

Additional Discussion Points:

- Observations of specific artworks by David Lanier that depict conservation practices, like controlled burns and habitat restoration.
- How does the artist depict the relationship between humans and nature?
- What scientific concepts can you identify in the artwork?
- How do the colors, composition, and subject matter convey the mood or message of the piece?
- In what ways do Lanier’s paintings enhance your understanding of conservation practices?
- How does the art affect your perception of the importance of these environmental practices?
- Students will take notes on their observations, focusing on how Lanier’s art reflects scientific themes and the ecological processes they’ve studied.

Optional Art Activity: Drawing Simple Nature Sketches

Students will sketch simple images of a nature scene. Once students have sketched their ideas, they will create a poster or landscape drawing to spread awareness and promote conservation efforts.

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

Post-Visit Activity:

Review the key themes observed during the museum visit. Discuss how Lanier’s art can serve as both a celebration of nature and a call to action for conservation.

Reflection Essay or Presentation:

Assign students to write a reflective essay or create a presentation that connects the science of conservation with Lanier’s artistic representation of these themes.

Topics could include the ecological significance of controlled burns, the role of bird dogs in conservation, or the importance of preserving the Bobwhite quail.

Reflection and Evaluation:

Have students reflect on what they learned about the relationship between art and science.

Discuss as a class how their perceptions of conservation might have changed after seeing how it is represented in art.

Creative Project (Optional):

Students can create a piece of art or a digital presentation inspired by Lanier's work, focusing on a specific aspect of conservation science.