



## FALL 2024 MIDDLE 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](mailto:Annie.vanoteghem@albanymuseum.com).

---

## **PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY**

This optional pre-visit activity will introduce students to the concept of 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

Begin by discussing what nature is and why it's important to protect it. Introduce the idea of conservation: taking care of nature so that plants, animals, and people can live healthily and happily. Discuss how art can make people care about nature and want to help protect it.

Start with a class discussion on what conservation means. Ask students to brainstorm ideas about why conservation is important and what role it plays in their community. Introduce the concept of using art to communicate ideas about conservation. 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. Have each group research their topic and discuss how it might relate to the art they'll see during their museum visit. Encourage them to think about why an artist like Lanier chose to highlight these themes.

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 will include reading the title wall aloud,

---

ideas 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:

- Close-up look at Lanier’s artwork, particularly those depicting conservation themes like controlled burns, quail hunting, and bird dogs.
- Lanier’s art is not just beautiful pictures. It also sends a message on the importance of conservation.
- How does art influence the way people think about nature and the environment?

Activity: Drawing Simple Nature Sketches

Students will learn what a sketch is and create a simple picture of their favorite part of nature. Encourage them to add details like the sun, trees, or flowers.

Once students have sketched their ideas, they will create a colorful picture on a new piece of paper. Encourage them to fill the page with their favorite parts of nature. They can draw animals, plants, the sky, and anything else they like. We will discuss their work together: What did they draw? Why do they like this part of nature? How can we help protect these animals and places?

AMAZing Space: Teamwork

In our AMAZing Space play gallery, students will work together in a team-building game with our big blue blocks.

---

## POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

Post-Visit Activity: Reflecting on Nature and Creating a Conservation Poster

Objective:

Reflect on what students learned during their museum visit.

Create a conservation poster that encourages others to protect nature.

Activity Steps:

Reflection on the Museum Visit. Begin by asking students to share what they remember from their museum visit. What artwork did they like the most? What did they learn about nature or conservation? Discuss how the art they saw helps people understand why it’s important to protect nature. What messages did the artists try to send with their work?

Conservation Poster Creation: Explain that students will now create their own conservation posters. The goal is to encourage people to protect nature, just like the art they saw at the museum.

Provide examples or ideas for what they could include, such as a picture of their favorite animal or plant with a message like “Save Our Forests” or “Protect the Quail”; a drawing of a healthy environment with clean water and lots of plants and animals; a collage using magazine cutouts to create a scene of nature.

Allow students to work on their posters, and offer any needed help and encouragement. Have students present their posters to the class, explaining what they drew and what

---

conservation message they included. Display the posters around the classroom or school to share their conservation messages with others.

Extension Ideas:

Create a “Conservation Corner” in the classroom where students can continue to add artwork and ideas for protecting nature.

Collaborate with a local conservation group to share student art or presentations as part of a community awareness campaign.