## 25 Places for Kids to Learn and Experiment with Art

(Great resource article from Karen Schweitzer, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009)

The web is a great place for kids to learn and experiment with art. There are sites that teach art history and theory, sites that offer easy-to use tools for mess-free creations, and sites that provide interactive games and activities. Here are 25 kid-friendly art sites and tools to explore today:

<u>The Metropolitan Museum of Art</u> - The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers several unique ways for kids of all ages to learn and interact with art. This online museum provides a look behind the arts, museum adventures, and the how's and why's of art pieces.

<u>The Art Zone</u> - Provided by the National Gallery of Art, The Art Zone hosts tons of excellent interactive painting and drawing activities. Kids can work with photos and paint like the masters online.

<u>ArtistAuthor</u> - This online art site offers free drawing and painting activities for students and teachers. ArtistAuthor updates activities daily and also provides tips and lessons for improving art techniques.

<u>ArtInThePicture.com</u> - ArtInThePicture is an introductory art history site that can be used to introduce older children to art history. The site provides a history of art through full color images, videos, and links to online museums.

<u>Mr.PicassoHead</u> - Mr.PicassoHead is a site that allows you to create faces using Picasso's strokes and techniques. This site is the perfect place to gain an understanding of modern art's unique style.

<u>A Lifetime of Color</u> - This color site provides several resources to interact, play, and study color. Resources include demos, projects, a glossary, and interactive games.

<u>A. Pintura Art Detective</u> - This interactive art history game is a fun and easy way for students to learn about and interact with art history.

<u>The Museum of Modern Art</u> - The Museum of Modern Art features audio, video, and interactive activities designed to teach children about modern art. These features are split into age groups and work well for any K-12 learner.

<u>Art Games</u> - The AlbrightKnox Art Gallery offers this interactive site for students who want to play art games. This fun site also offers art history and writing resources, painting tools, and a personalized art studio.

<u>ArtPad</u> - This free online painting tool allows you to use brushes and paints to create your own piece of art. ArtPad is a mess free way for kids to express themselves and learn painting techniques.

<u>Jackson Pullock</u> - This free tool allows students to create art using the splatter technique of Jackson Pullock. Simply pull your mouse around the screen to paint with colorful patterns.

<u>Kaleidoscope Painter</u> - This free web app provides the tools necessary to create customized kaleidoscope images online. Students can create colorful pieces of kaleidoscope art that can be saved or printed.

MyOats - MyOats is an online community that allows students to create art with an online drawing application. The art is then rated, downloaded, and archived. This is a wonderful way for children to see and connect with other artists.

<u>The Museum of Web Art Kids</u> - The Museum of Web Art offers an interactive creation site for kids. Users can play with interactive dots, create eraser art, and much more.

<u>Practice Pointillism</u> - This site give kids an online canvas to create works with pointillism--great for students who want to explore dot art.

<u>SurrealPainter</u> - The Wadworth Athenum Museum of Art offers this free web app for creating art in the modernist style. The web app gives kids the background and objects to move and rearrange into their own personal Picasso.

<u>Keith Haring's Interactive Coloring Book</u> - This interactive coloring book is perfect for elementary children. Kids can drag characters, letters, and colors onto the canvas to create their own coloring page.

<u>Kerpoof</u> - This interactive learning website from the Walt Disney Company features an art board for younger children to draw and be creative. Kerpoof is an excellent beginner tool for children who want to learn how to draw and paint.

<u>Make a Mosaic</u> - Make a Mosaic is an online mosaic creation site. Simply pull the tiles onto the canvas to create your own mosaic masterpiece.

<u>Color in Motion</u> - This interactive site by Claudia Cortes walks visitors through the use of color. Color in Motion also provides games and videos to illustrate how color communicates, invokes emotion, and symbolizes other things.

<u>Artopia</u> - Designed for middle school students, this art site covers visual and performing arts. Artopia gives students the opportunity to express themselves while teaching other students about style, technique, and principles of art.

<u>Inside Art</u> - Inside Art is an interactive art history experience for younger kids. The site leads visitors on interesting adventures into history.

<u>Kids Rule</u> - This interactive art site features a selection of unique activities that range from animation to writing. One particular feature worth exploring is the ArtCades, which allows children to create art using paper cutting, paint, shapes, and more.

<u>ArtsEdge</u> - The Kennedy Center's ArtsEdge offers activities for music, theatre, and visual arts. Kids can look at and listen to art, meet artists, and discover art quotes.

<u>Art Studio Chalkboard</u> - The Art Studio Chalkboard provides information for artists who want to learn or refine techniques. This is a great place for older students to learn the fundamentals of painting, color, shading, and perspective.

Guest post from Karen Schweitzer, the About.com Guide to Business School. Karen also writes for OnlineColleges.net.