



## WHERE ARTISTS GET THEIR IDEAS – DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WHY STUDY THE ORIGINATION OF IDEAS?

- To encourage original thinking and imagination
- To emphasize the process of doing and understanding your actions
- To build confidence in students' ideas

### ARTISTS AND THEIR THEMES

Many artworks communicate ideas, moods, or symbolic meanings. Artists have been doing this throughout time, including:

- Stormy Weather – Winslow Homer
- Man and Animals – Henri Rousseau
- Homes and their Interiors – Jan Vermeer
- Marine Life – Wyland
- Cycles of Life – Claude Monet
- Family – Mary Cassatt
- Religion – Peter Paul Rubens
- Still Life – Franz Snyder
- Abstraction – Frank Stella
- Narrative Illustration – Edward Hicks
- Social Issues – Keith Haring
- Hometown – Romare Bearden
- Nature – Georgia O'Keeffe
- Dreams and Fantasy – René Magritte
- Mythology – Sandro Botticelli

### JUMP START IDEAS

Have students brainstorm a list of categories for finding ideas, and build into a list on the board. Keep as a bulletin board in your room for students whose inspiration is waning! These are possibilities:

Nature	History	Rituals	Foods
Beliefs	Other artists	Human Society	Events
Family	Hobbies	Technology	Entertainment
Traditions	Science	Feelings & Emotions	Music
Culture	Mathematics	Books	Seasons
Art materials	Cycle of Life	Foreign cultures	

### RESOURCES

*Teaching Meaning in Artmaking*

By Sydney R. Walker (Davis Publications)

*The Intelligent Eye: Learning to Think by Looking at Art*

By David N. Perkins (1994, Getty Center for Education in the Arts)

*The Creative Artist: A Fine Artist's Guide to Expanding Your Creativity*

By Nita Leland

*Inspirations*

By Michael Apted

100 minute film, exploring the creative process that takes off from the question, "How do artists get their ideas?" Includes artists as diverse as David Bowie and Roy Lichtenstein, discussing their process.

Art Video World, \$14.95, #8710, Call 800-644-3429