

## **The Open Suitcase Series – Program Description**

### **Eye on Art –Visual Art**

The program “Eye on Art” explores visual art, including its beginnings, purpose, and the elements by which it is created. Each element, along with being explained, is also accompanied by a project or experiment to more clearly demonstrate its influence on art. A description of the topics covered and the contents of the suitcase are provided. The program contains suggestions for numerous projects and activities for hands on and visual learning. Questions for critical thinking are found throughout the entirety of the written program.

### **The written material covers the following topics:**

#### **Eye on Art**

Discover what constitutes art and learn about its defining origins. Is art important? How does it affect our lives?

#### **The Story of Visual Art**

Explore the past of visual art including how long it has existed and who were the first people to make art. What sort of materials were they using?

#### **The Story of Visual Art Unfolds**

Discover how art has changed and modified as civilizations developed. Early on, what were the most common uses of art, known more so as workmanship? Will art ever disappear?

#### **Elements of Visual Art**

There are seven different elements that make up art. Learn about colour, form, line, shape, space, texture and value. Explore the history of pigment, dye, and paint. Experiment with tinting and shading, drawing lines and making paint.

#### **History of Brushes**

How were brushes first made? How are they made today?

### **Questions for Critical Thought and Ideas for Further Exploration**

As students and teachers go through the written program, they will encounter a variety of questions that are great for both critical thinking and discussion. Some examples include:

- What is art?
- What is expression?
- What is creativity?
- Do we need art?
- Could we survive as a people without artistic forms of expression?
- How long do you think visual art has been around?

- How did mankind take colour and turn it into paint?
- What are lines?
- What is shape?
- What is meant by the value of art?

### **Items in the Suitcase**

There are a variety of items supplied in the suitcase to assist in the students' learning through visual examples and experimentation. Items include:

- colour wheel
- felt colour samples
- prism
- primary paint colours (red, blue, yellow)
- white and black paint
- dye and pigment samples
- shells or sandstone rocks
- examples of shapes and forms
- Diane Lemire Savidant's painting of the Lighthouse
- marbles
- yarn
- texture sample
- plastic spoons
- bottle caps
- corks
- combs
- feathers
- different size brushes