STUDIO FIELDNOTES / GREAT MASTERS / K–2

Notebook of Careful Looking | Leonardo da Vinci

Research and sources · K–2 · 45–55 minutes × 2–4 sessions

Context for this inquiry

Artists and inventors use iterative notebooks as evidence of inquiry

Teach with relevant originals

Use primary artworks, museum biographies, documentary sources or student-conducted observation. The collection cover is an original editorial graphic, not a reproduction of the artist’s work.

Starting sources

Research museum collections

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection

Search for the artist and original works

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?search=Leonardo%20da%20Vinci&title=Special%3ASearch&ns0=1

Met Open Access image and reuse guidance

https://www.metmuseum.org/hubs/open-access

Looking questions

What do you literally observe? Which design decisions are evident? What is uncertain or missing from this source? What does a second source change?

Source critique

For an artist study, identify the artist, date and medium of each original work before discussing influence. For arts integration, record the data or primary text behind the artwork and test its accuracy.

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Connection back to the studio

Return to What do we notice when we draw to understand rather than decorate? Use source evidence to justify a new artistic response: Three-page illustrated investigation of an everyday mechanism.