



### ***This Week in Art Masterpiece...***

The Art Masterpiece Program came this week and taught us about **Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859 – 1937)** and his painting **The Banjo Lesson**. Tanner was an American artist. He was an African-American and this made it hard for him to practice his painting because at that time African-Americans were not recognized as artists. Furthermore, most American painters were not considered serious unless they had spent time in Europe, so in 1891, Tanner moved to Paris. He returned to America for a time and painted *The Banjo Lesson* and other works but then returned to Paris where he lived for the rest of his life.

We looked at the painting and talked about what we saw and how it made us feel:

**Can you feel it?:** One of the most amazing things about *The Banjo Lesson* is you can tell how much the old man and the young boy care about each other. How can you tell this? Who do you think they are? Maybe it is a Grandfather with his Grandson? If you could hear what they are saying, do you think that the man is talking softly to the boy? Do you think that the man is happy to teach the boy to play the banjo? We feel so much when we look at this painting and this is why Tanner was thought of as such a great painter.

**What do you see?:** We looked at all of the details in the painting too. When you look around the room what do you see? Why do you think Tanner put all of this in the painting? Is the lesson in a classroom or do you think it is at their home? Is the room light or dark? Does it look warm or cold? Do you think it is a big house or small? Do you think that Tanner painted all of these things on purpose to tell us something? What do you think it was?

**Our Project:** After talking about Tanner's painting we looked through magazines to pick out pictures of things that we like to do with our parents or grandparents. We cut out the pictures and made collages. We colored around the pictures adding other details like Tanner had in his painting. It is hard to show how much you like something or someone in artwork but we tried to do just that. Maybe it was playing basketball with our dad or baking cookies with mom. We each had our own pictures of what we liked doing together and shared that in our own art.

*If you have any questions about the Art Masterpiece program in kindergarten or would like to volunteer to help present, call Diane DiCioccio at 480.502.8600 or e-mail her at [ddicioccio@aol.com](mailto:ddicioccio@aol.com).*