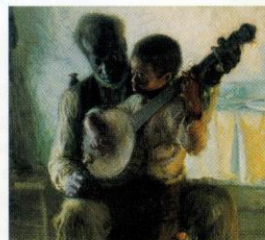


Tree House

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

This issue of Tree House is dedicated to the art of collecting and the artist whose work started the Museum's collection of **African American fine art**, *Henry Ossawa Tanner* (1859–1937). In 1894, with the donation of two of Tanner's paintings by Robert C. Ogden, Hampton University became the first institution in the United States to begin collecting African American fine art. Today, Hampton's collection consists of over 10,000 objects. Through the activities and lessons that take place in our Tree House, we will celebrate the art of collecting as we take a look at the Museum's collection and the collection of Dianne Whitfield-Locke & Carnell Locke in the exhibition, *Building on Tradition*.



Tree House Newsletter

Crystal Johnson
Creator & Editor
Associate Curator & Director of
Membership and Community
Programs

For information about *Tree House* contact Crystal Johnson at crystalc.johnson@hamptonu.edu or at 757.727.5980.

The Builders — Art Vocabulary & Art History

Collector — a person who accumulates a group of objects or art works that are meant to be seen or studied together.

African American Fine Arts — Art work created by African American artists such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, photography and other art forms that are made for the enjoyment of the viewer and not for everyday use.

Collage — a two-dimensional composition made by gluing various materials such as paper, fabric, pictures, etc. on a flat, firm surface.

Henry O. Tanner (1859–1937)

Henry Ossawa Tanner, born June 21, 1859, was the first of nine children born to Benjamin and Sarah Tanner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His parents valued education and even named their first born after the Kansas town of Osawatimie where the abolitionist, John Brown, began his antislavery campaign in 1856. For his parents, the name Ossawa symbolized the hope of emancipation.

Growing up as a young boy in Philadelphia, Tanner had no idea that he would later become one of the most recognized and internationally celebrated pioneers of American art. At the age of thirteen while walking down a street in his neighborhood, Henry noticed an artist painting a landscape. As he watched the artist work, he decided that he, too, wanted to be a painter.

He later studied art at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; he also taught art classes, made pictures for books and showed his own work in galleries around the country. Tanner even traveled to France to study with some of Europe's most famous art teachers. Traveling back and forth between the United States and Europe for years, Tanner decided that he could not "fight prejudice (in America) and paint at the same time." Therefore, he finally decided to live with his family in Paris.

"In Paris no one regards me curiously. I am simply Mr. Tanner, an American artist. I live and work there on terms of absolute social equality."

Creativity Corner

Art & Lesson Created by Crystal Johnson Horne

MY SACRED PLACE — Hidden Treasure Box

Objectives

1. Produce a work of art that demonstrates experimental application and uses the elements and principles of design.
2. Understand that art can be a vehicle for telling stories and recounting history.
3. Employ the use of art and museum vocabulary while analyzing works of art.
4. Use critical thinking skills and appropriate vocabulary to evaluate works of art.

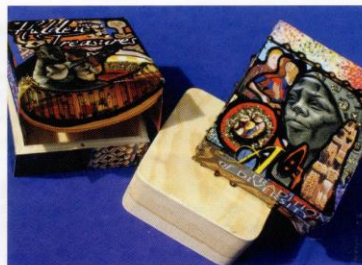
You will need

- 4" x 4" wooden box
- Post & Note cards of art work in the Museum Collection (can be purchased in the Museum Gift Shop)
- Scissors
- Black Ink pen
- Black Sharpie marker
- Pencil
- Craft glue
- Glitter glue (optional)

Create It

1. Cut the pictures into various shapes.
2. Begin decorating the top of the box by arranging and gluing the pictures to create a **collage**. Creatively overlap the pictures and be sure to leave very few empty spaces.
3. Repeat this process around the bottom half of the box.
4. Allow time for the top and bottom of the box to dry.
5. Use the black ink pen to make shadows on the some of the pictures darker and the black Sharpie marker to outline images of your choice.
6. If you desire, accent the box with glitter glue.
7. Allow time for the box to dry completely.
8. Now add your **collection** to your **Sacred Place** — **Hidden Treasure Box**!
9. Let's evaluate your work:
Describe: Describe the objects you used in your collage design.
Analyze: Were you able to create textures with your shading techniques? Did your design change gradually or quickly?
Interpret: Give your Hidden Treasure Box an expressive title that describes what is in your collection.
Decide: What did you enjoy most about the project?

Send images of your finished pieces to crystalc.johnson@hamptonu.edu. Include your name, age, where you are from and be sure to evaluate your work. Selected works will be posted on the Museum's website and Face Book page.



Tree House is a children's membership program that was developed to expand Friends of the Museum and enhance family visits. Geared toward children between the ages of 4 and 14, *Tree House* is rooted with a strong educational component that emphasizes the Museum's collection through workshops, specialized programming, events and the *Tree House* Newsletter. Our symbol, a tree engulfed in pattern, is based on the historical legacy associated with the Emancipation Oak that is located on the Hampton University campus. Like under the peaceful, out stretched branches where the first classes were taught, our mission is to "stimulate the mind by nourishing the heart with creative hands."

The Hampton University Museum

is located in the newly restored Huntington Building (the former library) on the grounds of the historic Hampton University campus. From Interstate 64, take exit 267/ Hampton University and follow the signs to the museum.

Museum Hours

MUSEUM HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
Monday–Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday
12 noon to 4 p.m.
Closed on Sundays
and major holidays.
Admission is free.
Call **757.727.5308**
for more information.