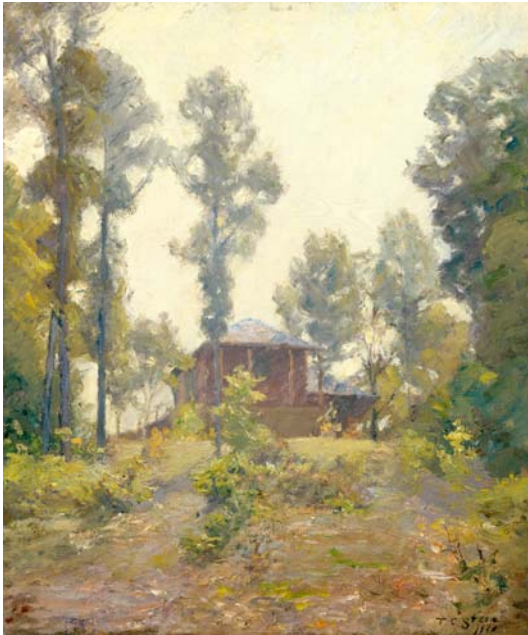


Purdue University Galleries

Educational Ideas and Activities 2004-2005

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Brown County for about \$1 an acre in 1907. He and his second wife, Selma, built a studio and home for Steele and named it "House of the Singing Winds" (image above depicts the *House of the Singing Winds*, by Steele, in 1908).

Adams, Forsyth and Steele

1/10/04-2/20/04 Ringel Gallery

Paintings by three Hoosier regionalists from the Lilly Foundation and the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Did you know?

- Theodore Clement Steele, John Otis Adams, and William Forsythe (along with Otto Starke and Richard Gruelle) were dubbed the "Hoosier Group" by a reporter at the 1893 Chicago Exposition.
- Indiana was the only state represented at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis with its own building featuring the work of the Hoosier Group.
- Steele, Forsyth, and Adams studied abroad together at the Royal Academy in Munich, Germany.
- T.C. Steele was originally from Waveland, Indiana.
- T.C. Steele purchased over 200 acres of land in the hills of

In the Gallery suggestions for questions and focus

Standards 11 and 12 are met by physically going to the gallery and discussing the space and the people who set up the exhibition

Focus on Place- standards 1, 5, 13

- Steele, Adams, and Forsythe painted scenes of Indiana. Where in Indiana were the scenes painted? Describe the landscape. Is it hilly? Does it have many trees? Is there a river, creek, or lake? Does the scene look like any place you could recognize today?
- Steele especially liked to paint scenes "en plein air", or outdoors. Choose a work by Steele. What time of year do you think is it? What time of day? What was the weather like? How do you know?
- If you could enter into the landscape, where would you be?

Focus on Style- standards 2, 3, 4

- Pick one work by each artist and compare aspects such as subject matter, use of space, and technique. How are they all similar? How are they different?
- Look at all the work by one artist. Notice the dates. How did that artist's style change over time? Describe the brushstroke, subject matter, and color.
- The French Impressionist painters influenced the style of the Hoosier group, most notably after the year 1893. Describe the effects of this influence on the Hoosier group's work.

Focus on Form and Technique- standards 2, 3, 4

- Choose one work of art. Analyze the composition. How is it arranged? What is the focal point? How do you know? How did the artist achieve balance? Describe the use of directional lines and what effect they give. Does the artist include people or objects in the composition? If so, what effect does this have?
- Describe the brush stroke. Is it smooth or choppy? Does it provide visual or actual texture? Make the motion of applying the paint. Did it create a rhythmical effect?

In the Classroom *standards 7, 8, 9, 10*

- Paint/sketch en plein air If possible, go outside the classroom to paint the landscape as T. C. Steele did. Use viewfinders to select a pleasing composition.
- Bring the outdoors in Forsythe and Steele had beautiful gardens which were often depicted in their work. Bring some blooms into the classroom to draw and paint.
- Paint your home Steele named his home *House of the Singing Winds* because of the noise made by the wind blowing through the screened porch, and he often depicted his home in his paintings. Have students give their home a nickname and bring in pictures of their homes to paint.
- Year-round paintings The Hoosier group painted landscapes in all the seasons. Starting at the beginning of the school year when it is still officially summer, begin painting a series of works that depict the same subject but in different seasons. By April, all the seasons will be painted so students can analyze the differences that occur in nature during each season.

Interdisciplinary Connections *standard 13*

- The landscapes depict very specific places in Indiana. Locate on a map of Indiana where places such as Brookville, Brown County, Vernon, and Bunker's Hill are. Also, locate where Adams, Steele, and Forsythe lived and worked.
- In images containing flowers, try to identify different types found, such as poppy and peony. How many of those flowers are native to Indiana? Assemble the same type of flowers for a still life, or just choose one type. Examine up close and identify the parts of a flower. Paint either a detailed botanical illustration or loosely applied impression of the flower.
- The T.C. Steele State Historic Site is located in Brown County and is available for tours. Take a real tour or a virtual one of the home and studio as well as the hilly grounds that surround the home. Identify the types of trees and other foliage that surround the home. What kind of animal life was found?
- Steele kept a journal to write his thoughts down and a sketchbook to record the world around him. Combine both journal writing and sketching to create a sketchbook journal, sketching visual imagery (especially that of nature) while writing detailed observations and thoughts.

Selected Bibliography

The Artists of Brown County, by Lyn Letsinger-Miller. Indiana University Press, Bloomington; 1994.

Beautifully illustrated book of major artists of Brown County, such as T.C. Steele and Adolph and Ada Schulz.

T.C. Steele State Historic Site: An Artist's Home and Studio. Part of the Department of Natural Resources. Lesson plans, text, activities, and resources for grades K-12.

Websites:

<http://www.tcsteele.org/> "Friends of T.C. Steele" site, includes information on the historic T.C. Steele home with a virtual tour of paintings paired with their locations

<http://www.in.gov/ism/HistoricSites/TCSteele/Historic.asp> Indiana State Museum historic site, includes short description of T. C. Steele home and suggestions for a visit to the historic home

<http://www.browncountystatepark.com/indiana/steele.html> Brown County site, lists description of T.C. Steele home, but its primary focus is the recreation and lodging in Brown County

<http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/2aa/2aa666.htm> Site for Heron Art Gallery, University of Washington/Seattle, has excerpt from catalogue, *American Impressionism*, on "Regional Impressionism, highlighting the Hoosier Group and career of T.C. Steele

<http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/3aa/3aa466.htm> Heron Art Gallery Site, with specific information related to the Adams, Forsyth, and Steele exhibition, with images and commentary