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BACKGROUND READING FOR ART PRESENTERS Franz Marc

Franz Marc (1880-1916)

Sources: George Schmidt, *Franz Marc* (The Uffizi Series)
Encyclopedia of World Art (article signed by Vernard S. Myers)

Franz Marc was born in Munich, Germany, in 1880. His father was a painter. The theme to be found running through most of his work is animals. At first he thought he wanted to be a minister, but then decided to paint. Early on he painted landscapes and portraits. After a visit to Paris, he began to be aware of modern color possibilities. In 1905 he drew his first animal drawings in an effort to relate all animal and human figures to Nature. In fact, he even taught animal anatomy for three years.

Marc experimented with color. His goal was to show the inner being of an animal, not just the external appearance. He found that only color that wasn't the real color of the animal (color independent of an object) could truly show this.

In *Blue Horses*, painted in 1911, Marc found the use of color for which he had tried so long to find. One critic said that the painting shows to what extent blue goes along with the nature of a horse: "it's proud, noble calm." It causes us to exclaim, he says, "How beautiful blue horses would be!" Another critic says that the blue depicts the hard, nervous energy of the horse.

Marc died fighting in World War I in 1916.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM
Kindergarten

LAMB
Franz Marc

The title of this picture is *Lamb*. Do you see a lamb in the painting? Just one, or more than one?

What else do you see?

Is there any sky? Trees? Hills?

What kind of day is it?

What time of year is it?

Name all the colors that you see. All the shapes.

Does the artist outline things in the painting?

How do outlines help tell us what shapes things are?

What is the difference between a bright or a dull color? Give examples.

Point out a bright color in the painting. A dull color.

Can you see through any of the colors in the painting? (Example: Can you see through a light color to a dark one behind?)

Talk a little about transparency if you think the children can understand it.

How does the painting make you feel when you see it? This is called the "mood" of the painting.

Would you like to have this painting hanging on the wall in your house?

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EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY

Lamb

Franz Marc - Kindergarten

1. Chalk on wet paper.

Materials: newspapers; boxes of chalk; white paper; wide paint brushes; water containers

Thoroughly saturate paper with water; then apply chalk heavily. Encourage children to completely cover paper with various colors as Marc did in his paintings.

2. Neighbor picture

Materials: kitchen timer; crayons; large sheets of paper

The object of this project is to have each child add something to every other student's picture. Give each student a sheet of paper and let them choose their favorite color. Tell them to draw their favorite animal (since the artist painted animals) on the paper. Set timer for 3 minutes. When timer goes off, have students

pass their papers to the student behind or beside them. Repeat the process of 3 minutes to draw their favorite animal. Continue until the papers are full. Return the picture to the original student.

Have the students put their name on the back of their paper before the project begins.