

# B O W E R S   M U S E U M

## **Bowers Museum Gallery Guide for Students (grades 7 & up)**

### ***The Baroque World of Fernando Botero***

**September 12, 2009 – December 6, 2009**

**Please print out this worksheet and bring it with you to the museum.**

*Photography is prohibited in the Botero exhibition, but be sure to **take a picture of yourself in the courtyard with one of the Botero sculptures to provide evidence of your visit.***

#### **Exhibition Summary**

Colombian artist Fernando Botero`s unique style is recognized and renowned world-wide for the voluminous forms and sensuous figures found within his painting, sculpture and works on paper.

Botero`s observations and portrayals often take on religion, politics, and history as subject with an equally critical and comical approach. *The Baroque World of Fernando Botero* includes over 100 paintings, sculptures and drawings dating from the 1950`s to present. Compiled from Botero`s personal collection, this is an opportunity to view many never exhibited works that the artist reacquired or never parted with. Themes such as faith and contemporary life in Latin America, early works and sculpture, and still-life portraits, and subjects that reference European art history, are presented in eight separate sections. Using a broad range of media, the Colombian-born Botero has created a world of his own, one that is at once accessible and enigmatic.

I. As you enter the exhibit, take a look around the room. Name 3 of the characteristics of the paintings you see.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. The paintings in this room were inspired by other famous artists that Botero studied in Europe as a young man. Sketch Botero`s “After Velazquez.”

III. Now go to the room with the still lifes. Read the information on the wall. Note that all of the elements of the still life paintings have that same kind of *inflated* look. Botero has said he paints from memory of an object rather than by observing it. For example, he will eat an orange and then paint it to capture its essence.

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Many of the paintings have the same objects in common. Name 4.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sketch one of the still lifes that you like.

IV. Look at the sculpture in the middle of the room. What is something you find interesting about it?

V. Walk through to the room with the religious paintings of Adam and Eve and Christ on the cross and “Our Lady of Columbia”. This painting shows a woman (Mary?) and the Christ Child (some say it is Botero himself). Note he’s holding a Colombian flag. Her headpiece is one worn by Catholic Church officials. What is the background being held up by?

VI. As you leave this room and enter the long hallway, to your left you will see some of Botero’s first works of children. They are quite different from his later style. Name two ways they are different.

- 1.
- 2.

VII. Look at the small sculptures in the glass case. What does Botero like to sculpt?

VIII. Read the information near the “Earthquake” painting and look at the painting near it. The President and First Lady are painted in unusual surroundings. What is the backdrop for the painting? Why do you think he chose this?

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IX. Botero's themes include still lifes, studies inspired by other famous artists, religion, everyday life in Colombia, bullfighting, politics, and violence.

Look at the painting with the bull, the bullfighter, and the skeleton. What's unusual about this painting?

X. Name two paintings that show his depiction of violence in Colombia.

1.

2.

XI. In the next large room, there are both sketches and sculptures. Which one do you like the best? Name it and explain why you like it.

XII. As you go through the remainder of the exhibition, look at the people's facial expressions. Draw a typical expression.

XIII. Pick your favorite painting from this area and draw it.

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XIX. In conclusion, **reflect on your visit.** Have you ever been to an art museum before? Have you been to the Bowers before? What did you like or dislike about the Botero exhibit? What are your general impressions and comments? Write down your thoughts and discuss with friends and family members.

XX. Use your creativity and make a “Botero” of yourself by lying down on a piece of butcher paper, having someone trace your body, and coloring it in to show your “essence.” Be sure to include things about yourself that can be recognized. Have fun with it!

**XXI. Send us your comments and photos on Facebook and Twitter!**

**We hope you enjoyed the exhibit, and hope to see you soon at the Bowers Museum!**

**[www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org)**