

## ESTRADA FINE ART NEWSLETTER – August 2009

This month I would like to explore the question **What We Can Learn From Contemporary Art?** This topic comes from **art:21** – the Peabody Award-winning biennial series on PBS. Art in the twenty-first century is the only primetime national television series that focuses exclusively on contemporary art.

Five seasons have been produced so far. This fall, the series will premiere on **Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 10P ET**. The artists interviewed span five continents and include such legendary figures as Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, John Baldessari, Carrie Mae Weems and William Kentridge. Mark your calendars so as not to miss this exciting series.

### **What Can We Learn From Contemporary Art?**

*Looking at contemporary art is:*

- *an investigation and an exploration*
  - *an opportunity to consider ideas, different perspectives, and to learn something new*
  - *a chance to create a personal sense of meaning and understanding*
1. When contemporary art is integrated into school and community learning -- educators are able to actively engage issues that affect our lives. This **provokes curiosity, encourages dialogue, and can also ignite debate** about the world around us.
  2. Artists can serve as creative role models to **inspire students to consider how ideas are developed, articulated, and realized in the contemporary world.**
  3. Contemporary artists address both current events and historical ideas. This helps both educators and students **make connections** and **supports interdisciplinary thinking.**
  4. Since contemporary artists frequently explore new technologies and media, the work they create **encourages critical thinking and visual literacy in our increasingly media-saturated society.**
  5. So studying art through a series such as Art 21 helps students of all ages understand that contemporary art is part of our cultural dialogue. This can include **personal and cultural identity, family, community, and nationality.**

**Curiosity, openness, and dialogue are important tools for engaging audiences in contemporary art.** Instead of questioning whether a work of art is good or bad, asking questions that stimulate discussion is a much better way to appreciate and understand contemporary art and the world around us.

Have questions about the series or other art21 initiatives – visit [www.art21.org](http://www.art21.org).

- Geneen Estrada

***Geneen Estrada is the owner of Estrada Fine Art. We represent established mid-career artists. More information can be obtained at [www.estradafineart.com](http://www.estradafineart.com).***