



WI. VETERANS MUSEUM

Drawing the Everyday

Grade Level: 6-12

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Learn about Zingale and his art from WWII
- Learn about Social Realism in art
- Draw their own art in the form of Social Realism
- Have students keep a daily journal for a week, drawing different activities they see happening

SUPPLIES

- Sketch paper and/or journals
- Pencils or charcoal pencils
- Erasers

BACKGROUND

Santos Zingale, painter and art educator, grew up on the East Side of Milwaukee, where even as a child, he would draw and sketch the neighborhood children. From 1927-1931, Zingale attended and received his Bachelor's Degree from the Milwaukee State Teachers College, now the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. From 1944-1946, Zingale was in the U.S. Navy, where he produced sketches of life aboard the U.S.S. *Bremerton*.

Social Realism - The Social Realist political movement and artistic explorations flourished primarily during the 1920's and 1930's, a time of global economic depression, heightened racial conflict, the rise of fascist regimes internationally, and great optimism after both the Mexican and Russian revolutions. Social Realists created figurative and realistic images of the "masses," a term that encompassed the lower and working classes, labor unionists, and politically disenfranchised.

Social artists most often depicted society's outcasts and the marginalized, such as the urban poor, racial minorities, and immigrants. Often these men were pictured alone without the safety and sanctity of the family unit. Social Realists gave attention and voice to these "forgotten men," as they were called, with empathetic imagery of their struggles.

DIRECTIONS

- Talk about Social Realism and look at Zingale images from his time on the U.S.S. *Bremerton*
- Why is this considered Social Realism?
- What role are the men on the ship taking on?
- Are some of the roles different on the ship than they would be on land? (cooking, washing, mending, etc.)?
- There is only one woman portrayed in this collection. What is her role? Women took on other roles during the war as well. What were those roles? (farmer, industrial worker, bread winner, etc.)?
- There is only one African American Man (portrayed twice). Why do you think that is?
- Have the students draw things they see happening around them, paying close attention to the things they might not otherwise notice.

RESOURCES

- The Art Story: Modern Art Insight <http://www.theartstory.org/movement-social-realism.htm>
- MOWA: Museum of Wisconsin Art <http://www.wisconsinart.org/archives/artist/santos-zingale/profile-193.aspx>
- Video from the 1940's about women in industrial jobs: <https://youtu.be/VqEr6TO9ubg>
- WVM Traveling Art Exhibit Program <https://wisvetsmuseum.com/artwork/santos-zingale-artist-turned-sailor/>



