

Art in the Utah State Capitol

Teachers' Guide

Students will identify cultural expressions by artistic and architectural design. The following are artists whose paintings and sculptures are featured in the Utah State Capitol. Assign these artists for students to research so that they will recognize the art they see on their visit.

ARCHITECT

Richard Kletting, a German immigrant, was the chief architect of the Utah State Capitol, using a neoclassical revival style. Notable other projects: the original Saltair Resort, the New York Hotel, and the Colonel E. A. Walls Mansion on South Temple

PAINTERS

- **Alonzo Earl Foringer** painted *Jim Bridger and the Discovery of the Great Salt Lake*, which depicts an explorer in discussion with Bridger, and is located in the House Chamber.
- **Vincente Aderente**, an Italian immigrant, painted *Dream of Brigham Young*, which depicts Young's vision for the LDS Temple, and is located in the House Chamber.
- **David Koch**, a Utah artist, was commissioned to paint *Seraph Young Votes* and *Engen Brothers*, both located in the House Chamber, for the reopening of the Capitol building.
- **Keith Bond**, a local Utahn known for his picturesque landscapes, was commissioned to paint *Orchards Along the Foothills* and *My Ancestral Home*, which were installed in the Senate Chamber during restoration.
- **Louis Schaettle**, painted the Beaux-Arts-style *Children at Play* in New York City. It was then shipped to Utah and hung on the ceiling of the Gold Room.
- **Girard Hale**, a Colorado native, and **Thomas Gilbert White**, a Michiganite, painted the half-moon murals (called "lunettes"), *The Arrival of the Pioneers in the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847* (sometimes called *The Passing of the Wagons*), and *Reclaiming the Desert by Irrigation* (sometimes called *Madonna of the Covered Wagon*) in Paris. They were then shipped to Salt Lake and installed on either end of the Rotunda.
- **Henry L.A. Culmer**, an English immigrant to Utah, was known for painting landscapes and was the first to paint the Natural Bridges in southern Utah, including the painting *Caroline Bridge* which is located in the Supreme Court chamber. He also painted *Bingham Canyon Mine 1* and *Bingham Canyon Mine 2*, which are both located in the Governor's suite reception area.
- **Lee Greene Richards**, a well-known native Utah painter who also worked in Paris, and **A.B. Wright** painted the multi-paneled landscape of *Utah Lake* that is located on the North wall of the Senate Chamber.

The twelve murals in the rotunda were funded by the **Public Works of Art Program**, a federal relief program formed to provide work for unemployed artists during the Great Depression. They were all planned and sketched by **Lee Greene Richards**, with assistance in painting from **Henry Rasmussen, Gordon Cope, and Walter Midgely**. Paintings in the rotunda drum include: *Advent of Irrigation by Pioneers; Driving the Golden Spike; General Connor Inaugurates Mining; The Gulls Save the Wheat Field; Naming Ensign Peak – 26 July 1847; Peace with the Indians – September 1852, Pony Express and the Stagecoach, and Social Gathering in the Old Bowery.*

The four murals located in the rotunda pendentives, or pointed arches that lead to the drum, include: *Father Escalante Discovers Utah Lake – 1776; Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden River – 1828; Fremont First Sees Great Salt Lake – 184; and Brigham Young and Pioneers Entering the Valley.*

SCULPTORS

- **Nicholas Fairplay** carved *Fortitude, Integrity, Honor, and Patience* (the Capitol lions) from Italian marble to replace the worn originals located at the east and west entrances.
- **Eugene Daub, Robert Firmin, and Jonah Hendrickson** make up a nationally recognized sculpture group from San Francisco Bay area, chosen to sculpt the classical allegorical sculptures *Arts and Education, Science and Technology, Immigration and Settlement, and Land and Community* (together these sculptures are called “The Great Utahns”) that are located in the Rotunda niches.
- **Kraig Varner**, a Utah artist, sculpted the statue *Brigham Young* in 1993 to commemorate the Utah Territory’s first governor. It is cast in bronze and located in north alcove on the second floor.

More information on specific artworks and their artists can be found under the “Explore the Capitol” tab on our website, www.utahstatecapitol.utah.gov.