

Bailey Family

Judy would sit next to George and see what he is doing and of course she wants to see what Daddy is doing, it is really cute. They used to draw together and paint together and those kinds of things but, they still get to do that at Frist in ArtQuest. – Mary Bailey

George, Mary, and Judy Bailey were at the Frist Center for its grand opening in April 2001 and have been frequent visitors ever since. Now ten years old, Judy has been visiting the Frist with her parents since the age of one. In the beginning years of Judy's life, the family visited the Frist once every few weeks for a few hours at a time. "There were plenty of times when Judy was little," Mary said, "when we just went to Martin ArtQuest and that was one of our outings. We did it all the time." As evidence of the many days spent there, the Baileys have kept a large portfolio containing all of the artwork they have created in Martin ArtQuest over the years.



Bailey Family (from left): Judy, Mary, and George.

Art and culture play a significant role in the lives of the Bailey family. As a practicing local artist, George has exhibited his works in several Nashville galleries and has developed close relationships with local arts and cultural organizations, including the Frist Center. Mary is a stay-at-home mother who enjoys visiting art museums with her husband and daughter. On all three visits made during this study, the Baileys visited the Frist (and other like sites) as a family unit, with both parents always present, in addition to the visual arts, Judy also participates in several forms of performing arts, including ballet, piano, and violin. The Baileys also enjoy visiting flea markets and shopping malls and travelling to Japan (Mary's native country).

For this study, the Bailey family made three accompanied visits to the Frist Center and one visit to a local shopping mall as their like-site visit. In talking about their motivation for visiting the mall, George and Mary explained how they like to establish a "responsibility" around shopping. They emphasized the appreciation of fashion and dissuasion from wasting money and time. They also encouraged the art of looking at and observing objects found in the mall, or as George said, "The museum pieces of the future."

Visits to the Frist Center for Visual Arts Galleries

During their three visits to the Frist museum, the Baileys' interaction with art and each other reflected their strong passion for looking at, critiquing, and creating art together. Throughout their visits, the Baileys stayed together as a unit. While in the galleries, the mood was usually one of excitement and wonder. Conversations were most often initiated and led by George, who was frequently observed waving his hands around in excitement while pointing out interesting aspects in a work of art. George also stimulated conversations and encouraged closer looking by asking poignant questions and asking Mary and Judy to describe their feelings and tastes for different works. The family rarely, if ever, read wall text or objects labels. Often the family spent long periods of time looking at the artwork before discussing it.

Visits to Martin ArtQuest

In Martin ArtQuest, the Baileys tended to work in silence, focusing on the art making at hand. George, with his passionate avocation for individuality and creativity, rallied against following any of the instructions or guidelines and dove right into the activity. Judy, on the other hand, carefully read the instructions and meticulously worked from there. George, Mary, and Judy always concentrated deeply on their creations and completed their works on site. All of these creations were taken home to be added to their Martin ArtQuest portfolio.

Visits to Like Site

George, Mary, and Judy Bailey approached their trip to the shopping mall in the same manner as they approach looking at and discussing art while at the Frist Center: with passion, a strong eye on aesthetics, and extended discussions. Similar to the Frist Center visits, where the Baileys presented strong art knowledge, at the mall they presented strong product knowledge. Substantial time was devoted to discussing the trends in relation to their art origins, and, in many cases, George could link the item back to the original artist.

Motivation & Values

In talking about their motivation for visiting the Frist Center and Martin ArtQuest, the Baileys explained that when Judy was younger, Martin ArtQuest became a safe and known place where they could spend time together as a family. As a practicing artist, George also talked about the unique atmosphere of Martin ArtQuest, saying “your head is full of that stuff you have seen in the gallery and *inspired* is not the right word... you just sit there and your work may not be like your regular work... it just bounces out of you and it is very pleasurable and fun that that can happen.” The family also described the gallery as being a space that gives them the opportunity to do things together that they might not be able to do at home, such as printmaking and other wet art-making activities. Mary mentioned that spending time together in Martin ArtQuest “creates a great deal of tolerance among us.”

Shared Characteristics—Art Museum & Like Sites

While the Baileys did not explicitly discuss the shared characteristics of the museum and the choice of their like-site visit, from observations and informal discussions it appears the greatest similarities in regards to value are the appreciation for art and fashion and the development or refinement of personal aesthetics and taste. In terms of differences, George mentioned that a trip to the mall did not “linger with you days on end; it was not the art experience.”

Connections & Effect of Participation in the Study

The Baileys referred to one concrete connection between an experience at the Frist Center and Judy’s formal education. George explained how Judy created an altar for her school project on Spain, saying that the reason she understood how to make it was because of the medieval exhibit the family had seen at the Frist. On a more broad level, the Baileys say that following visits to the Frist Center, they discuss what they thought was most “fun” and what they “enjoyed the most.” They also continue to view and discuss the art they create in Martin ArtQuest for several days following a visit to the museum.

VISIT PATTERNS

	Frist Center for the Visual Arts	Like Sites
Average time spent	173 minutes (Entire visit) 67 minutes (Martin ArtQuest)	165 minutes
Timing of visits	Mostly visit after school in the afternoon, since Judy has other obligations on the weekends.	Mostly visit on school breaks during the week.
Order of visits	Usually start in the gift shop, then see some art in the galleries, then make art in Martin ArtQuest, and then see a bit more art in the galleries before leaving. The family notes that this pattern ultimately depends on which exhibitions are available.	Always start at Dillard's and work their way through the shopping mall from there.

Snapshot

THREE VISITS TO THE FRIST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

Visit 1



April 2009
2 hours 30 min.
Paint Made Flesh
Medieval Treasures

Visit 2



October 2009
2 hours 30 min.
Georgia O'Keeffe
Oliver Herring

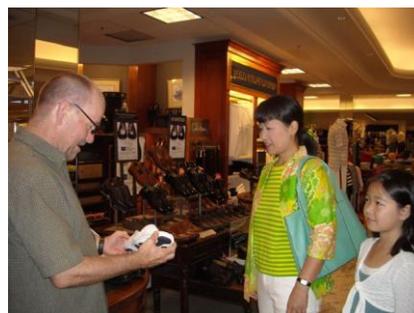
Visit 3



March 2010
3 hours 40 min.
European Masterpieces
U-Ram Choe

ONE VISIT TO A LIKE SITE

Greenhill Shopping Center



July 2009
2 hours 45 min.