

**AP ART HISTORY 2024-25 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**  
**Pelham Memorial High School Art Department**  
**Instructor: Ms. Cherashore**

Dear Advanced Placement Art History (APAH) Students,

Welcome to *Advanced Placement Art History*! This college level course in the history of art begins with Pre-History and takes us all the way to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Your summer assignment is designed to orient you to looking at and thinking about art and to give us a head start on our studies. The summer assignment consists of reading our “online textbook,” a museum visit and a written analysis of one work of art. Please read through this document to the end.

**REQUIRED SUMMER ART HISTORY READING/WATCHING**

*KHAN ACADEMY/SMARTHISTORY ARTICLES, START HERE: Click on the following link and watch/read all the articles/videos under the heading “START HERE” beginning with “WHY ART MATTERS.” Follow the checklist below.*

*<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/start-here-apah>*

**PERUSE** the “Master List of the 250”

**WATCH** the UNIT 1 “START HERE” VIDEOS:

**WHY ART MATTERS**

- Why Look at Art
- Must Art be Beautiful? Picasso’s the Old Guitarist
- How Art can Help you Analyze
- The Power to Look
- What Work of Art Inspired You?
- Describe What you See: Henry Moore Sculpture

**INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY**

- How to do visual (formal) analysis in art history.

Familiarize yourself with the Elements & Principles of Art and Design

<http://www.projectarticulate.org/principles.php>

## **REQUIRED MUSEUM VISIT\***

You are required to visit a museum on your own and write an analysis of a work of art. The following is a list of museums in the New York Area:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC <https://www.metmuseum.org/>

The Museum of Modern Art, NYC <https://www.moma.org/>

The Guggenheim, NYC <https://www.guggenheim.org/>

The Frick Collection, NYC <https://www.frick.org/> (CLOSED for Renovation)

The Whitney Museum, NYC <https://whitney.org/>

The Jewish Museum, NYC <https://thejewishmuseum.org/>

Studio Museum Harlem, NYC <https://studiomuseum.org/>

El Museo del Barrio, NYC <https://www.elmuseo.org/>

Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/>

The Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase, NY <https://www.neuberger.org/>

\* If you are traveling this summer and visit a museum in another state or county you may use a work of art from that museum.

## **REQUIRED WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

The written assignment is a reflection/analysis of a work of art that you witness firsthand in a museum of your choice. The guidelines for this assignment are outlined separately and included in this packet. The written assignment will be collected on the first day of class. Failure to produce the written assignment on the first day of class will result in a zero. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

The required text for this course is ***Gardner's Art Through the Ages: Concise Global History, 4<sup>th</sup> edition.*** A copy of the text will be provided for you on the first day of class.

**Good luck, have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.**

Ms. Cherashore  
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## Required Summer Written Assignment

### How to write about art....

After you have completed the Khan Academy videos above you are ready to look at and analyze art. Take this sheet with you to the museum and when you find a work of art that *MOVES* you, answer the following prompts. Then use what you have written down to formulate a written reflection about your work of art.

- 1) Before you look to see who the artist is, or listen to the audio tour, or read the plaque on the wall, **jot down your first impressions**. What grabbed your attention? Was it color? Bold lines? A stirring or shocking subject? The overall pleasant nature that creates a sense of calm? Does it remind you of an experience that you have had before? Whatever it is, jot it down and don't forget it because the rest of the analysis is trying to find words for why you feel the way you do.
  
- 2) Great, now you have something to go on. Next, focus a bit more and look at all the parts of the painting that grabbed your attention or gave you the certain feeling that made you stop and want to linger over the work. Artists and art historians call these parts the *ELEMENTS and PRINCIPLES of ART*.
  - a. Describe the **colors, lines, shapes**, and **forms** within the art piece. How does the artist organize **space**? How do these elements and principles add to the feeling of the work? LINK: Project ARTiculate
  
  - b. These elements go together to form a COMPOSITION or *how the elements are arranged* on the picture plane. The composition of the piece may contain certain principles of design that add to the feeling of the work. Is there a sense of balance, imbalance, or movement? Look for repeated **patterns, spatial relationships, symmetry** or **asymmetry**, the **contrast** between lights and darks, the **movement** of lines, the **surface texture**. Record your impressions of these things. How do they impact the work of art? LINK: Project ARTiculate

- 3) Next, ponder the subject. What is happening in the work of art? What or who is being represented here? Is a story being told or is it a more abstract concept being illustrated, or both? Take a gander at what you think this work of art is about. If you are not sure, use your imagination, take a guess, and then do some research later.
- 4) Finally, art serves many purposes. Why do you think the artist created this work of art? Again, if you are not sure, take a guess then do the research after.
- 5) LASTLY, take a look at the information or **CONTEXT** that goes along with the work. Artist, title, date, and medium (what materials it was made with.) Write down all the information. You may even Google the meaning of this work at this point. How does this knowledge change or add to your understanding of the piece?
- 6) List 3 questions that you have after looking at this work of art.

Take these notes along with what you have learned from the assigned Khan Academy videos and write a minimum one-page typed analysis of the work you just saw. Start with your first impressions, then do your analysis, and conclude with the answers to the questions you have about the work. Make sure you include a copy of the work on a separate page and bring it to class on the first day of school.

Good luck and email me if you have any questions!

-Ms. Cherashore☺

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