

# AP ART HISTORY

Mrs. Thomas  
Benicia High School

Due to the increased size of the AP Art History Program at Benicia High School, we want to make sure that all who have signed up are serious about this course. Please realize that it is an **ART History** course. Therefore, we will be looking at and discussing art and its reflection of the historical era in which it was produced. Artistic ability is obviously NOT required, but an **interest** in paintings, sculpture and architecture *is* required. Please understand, that as a survey course, we will also study the art of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, which is quite frequently religious in theme. Some students find that particular seven-week unit less interesting, so make sure that you are aware of this before taking the course. Lastly, please realize that this course is an *Advanced Placement* Course. This means that we are essentially a college course located on a high school campus. Our homework load is heavier than most regular high school classes, and the 9 pound book is written at a college reading level. For those of you who have taken AP or honors courses, you will find this course quite manageable. If you have not taken AP or honors courses before, you need to seriously weigh your decision regarding this course selection as we have homework every night and essay tests every two weeks. If you choose not to take this course, please notify your counselor ASAP, so that you can select another elective before it is too late. This must be done **now**, not in the fall!!

## SUMMER ENHANCEMENT

To enhance your exposure to art, I would like you to fulfill a short museum assignment over the summer. This involves either visiting an art museum in person or online. A very short paper is DUE ON THE DAY you return (August 17<sup>th</sup>). However, due to family summer commitments you may have one additional weekend to complete this task. It may be turned in as late as August 25<sup>th</sup> without penalty.

### PERSONAL MUSEUM VISIT

You are to visit an art museum in San Francisco or *anywhere* during your summer travels. (See back for suggestions and locations in CA.) Visit the museum and thoroughly expose yourself to its collection. Make it a meaningful visit. Bring back the **entrance ticket** and staple it to the following assignment: (If you are at a museum where the entrance is free, please grab a museum plan in lieu of the ticket.)

Select *and identify* one painting or sculpture in the museum that you wish to write about. Identify the museum visited and work selected in your THESIS STATEMENT in your first paragraph.

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- 1) Make sure that your paper addresses the following questions: **What do you like or find intriguing about the painting or sculpture? What event, person or place is represented in the painting or sculpture? Does it tell a story (narrative), have symbolism, create a mood...? What made it stand out above other works in the museum?**
  - 2) **How does your painting reflect the values and concerns of the time period in which it was produced?** In other words, *reflect upon the era* in which it was created. Were there historical or cultural events that might have influenced the artist in making the painting? You are encouraged to do research on the era, artist, patron (person who paid for it) or work as you write your paper.
  - 3) What are the formal aspects of the painting? (“Formal” = artist’s use of color, unity composition, balance, and use of light.) [http://arthistory.about.com/library/glossary/blarthistory\\_main.htm](http://arthistory.about.com/library/glossary/blarthistory_main.htm)
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- 4) In your conclusion, please discuss the painting’s **placement/location in the museum**. Is it appropriate? Do the walls/frame/location/neighborings paintings enhance the work? Would *you* have placed it in that spot? Would you have placed it next to those neighboring works?
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Your entire **answer should be approximately 250 words ++ typed, double-spaced and 12 font**. A postcard, photo or online thumbnail image of the work is often helpful if included.

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If you need to contact me over the summer: [ptmap@aol.com](mailto:ptmap@aol.com)

## OR ONLINE MUSEUM VISIT

Visit any major MUSEUM *online*. It must be a *museum* website, not a website that sells posters, etc. Some suggestions are: (Remember: Museums only!!)

<http://museoprado.mcu.es/ihome.html>

<http://www.metmuseum.org/home.asp>

<http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html>

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/>

<http://www.louvre.fr/louvre.htm>

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

Try the following link, as well, but be careful to only select real *physical* museums. *Virtual* museums or websites with posted artworks do not qualify: <http://www.uml.edu/Dept/History/ArtHistory/links.htm>  
Then do *all three* of the following questions. Make sure you include a small picture of each work, along with its title, artist and year created. You MUST state what online museum(s) you visited.

- 1) Do the same as numbers 1-3 above, except select your painting from an online museum.
- 2) Select **another** work from an online museum. Do the same thing as 1-3 above but also discuss how it differs from your selection in #1. For differences, you could consider the time period, theme, mood, composition, use of dark/light, color, unity and balance.  
[http://arthistory.about.com/library/glossary/blarthistory\\_main.htm](http://arthistory.about.com/library/glossary/blarthistory_main.htm) will help with terms.
- 3) Select a **third** work from an online museum in a different medium from your above choices (i.e. sculpture). Pretend you have the opportunity to interview the artist, sculptor, or architect. Type up seven specific and meaningful interview questions that you would use. **That's all!**

### Possible Museums to Physically Visit for Personal Museum Visit

#### Suggested Museums in San Francisco Bay Area:

**San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SF MOMA)** 151 Third St., San Francisco; Tel. 415.357.4000 [www.sfmoma.org/](http://www.sfmoma.org/). \* You can get to it from BART

Georgia O'Keefe and Ansel Adams Exhibit this summer! 

**Legion of Honor (European Art)** [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)  
34th Ave. and Clement, Lincoln Park, San Francisco; Tel. 415.863.3330.

**De Young (American Art, African Art, Oceanic Art)** [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)  
Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco, 415.863.3330.

King Tut Exhibit from Egypt this summer!!!! 

**Asian Art Museum** 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102  
Info: 415.581.3500. \* You can get to it from BART

**Rosicrucian Museum in San Jose (Egyptian Art)** 1342 Naglee Ave  
San Jose, 95191 <http://www.egyptianmuseum.org/>

**Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts (Rodin sculptures plus more)**  
Lomita Dr. and Museum Way | Stanford University, Palo Alto,  
Tel: 650-723-4177 <http://ccva.stanford.edu/>

**The Contemporary Jewish Museum** [www.thecjm.org](http://www.thecjm.org) 736 Mission Street  
San Francisco, (415) 655-7800 \* You can get to it from BART

**The Oakland Museum of California** (Make sure art gallery is open, as they are undergoing some new construction right now.) 510-238-2200

## Suggested Museums in L.A.:

The Getty (Beautiful building and setting) 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90049 310 440-7300 (free) <http://www.getty.edu>

Norton Simon Museum (Great Degas collection + more) 411 West Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, 91105 626 449-6840 <http://www.nortonsimon.org/>

Museum of Latin American Art  
628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 562 437-1689.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art 323 857-6000. <http://www.lacma.org/>

Pompeii Exhibit this summer! ↑

## Suggested Museums in San Diego:

San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, (619) 232-7931 <http://www.sdmart.org/>

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN SAN DIEGO (MCASD) 700 Prospect Street La Jolla, 92037-4291 858 454 3541 <http://www.mcasandiego.org/>

TIMKEN MUSEUM OF ART 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park San Diego 92101 619-239-5548 <http://gort.ucsd.edu/sj/timken/>

Mrs. Thomas' email, if you have questions over the summer: [ptmap@aol.com](mailto:ptmap@aol.com)