



Summer Reading 2015
Upper School Art
Advanced Placement Art History
Ms. Carlson

Assignment Context

AP Art History will require you to become adept at careful observation and analysis of visual art. For your summer assignment, you will visit at least one museum and spend time looking closely and reflecting on a few works of art. The purpose here is not to find the “right” answer about a work of art, but to practice close observation. See below for an essential course understanding and question we week to begin exploring with this assignment.

Essential Understanding: Interpretations of art are variable

Essential Question: How do we describe our thinking about art?

Assignment Overview

Visit at least one major art museum such as The Metropolitan, The Guggenheim, The Whitney Museum of American Art, or The Frick Collection, if you are in New York. If you are travelling, research the museums in your destination city and choose one to visit. Plan to spend at least 20 minutes in front of two separate works of art. You will consider the form, function, content and context of these works and journal your responses. The two works can be from separate museum visits.

Follow these prompts and reflect about them in your journal or sketchbook for 2 works of art. You will receive a link to a shared Google folder where you will upload your journal entries and related images before the start of the school year:

- Start by finding a work of art that to which you are drawn. Depending on the collection you are visiting, this could be historical or or contemporary. It can be a painting, sculpture, drawing, collage--any work of art that has enough going on to hold your attention and invite further investigation.
- Without reading the label or other interpretive materials, begin by simply looking at the work of art in front of you. What do you see? What is going on in this work of art? Make a list or jot down your initial observations. Use the [attached questions](#) to help guide your investigation. You do not have to write the answer to every question--use it as a guide to direct your thinking and summarize your response from each category.
- Once you have made some initial observations, stop and sketch the work of art. What new observations or understandings do you have?

- Read the label and/or interpretive materials. How does this add to your understanding? What new questions do you have?
- Be sure to capture the following information about the work of art:
 - Title
 - Name of the artist and/or culture of origin
 - Date of creation
 - Media
- If the museum allows photography, take a picture of the work of art. If not, find an image online and provide a link in your google journal.