

# Welcome to AP ART HISTORY

Dear AP Art History Student,

I am glad that you have decided to take AP Art History next year! I can guarantee that the class will give you a new and exciting view on the world, and your place in it. You will learn to see things in a way you have never seen before, making things you would have passed by before captivating and intriguing.

To prepare for this adventure, you will need to do a little prep work and investigation this summer:

1. Write a short essay about your favorite piece of art. It can be anything you deem as art. See attached description below.
2. Visit a museum or art exhibit and write a review of your visit. I urge you to get out into the DMV community and physically visit one of our amazing museums or local artist's exhibitions. There are so many that are free. I have attached a list of galleries in our area. But if that is not possible for you, you may go online and do a review of an online gallery. You may also use any museums you might visit on your travels this summer. See attached description below.
3. Join our class on Khan's Academy. The link is listed below. It is titled as MS CHICK'S ART HISTORY.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/join/R5VH5C6R>

Or you can visit [www.khanacademy.org/join](http://www.khanacademy.org/join) and enter your class code R5VH5C6R

Summer work is due at the end of the first week of school Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me over the summer. My email is Courtney\_t\_chick@mcpsmd.org.

See you in the fall!

- Ms. Chick

# ASSIGNMENT #1

## What's Your FAVORITE piece of Art??

**Write 3 paragraphs about your favorite piece of art work. If you have many favorites just pick one to talk about. It does not have to be a traditional painting or sculpture. It can be anywhere from graffiti and album covers to installations and performance art. The point of the assignment is to present a piece of art that holds your interest and you find important.**

**First paragraph** should be all the basic information. Include: Title, Artist, Medium, date created/finished, where it was created, where is it now (museum, destroyed, ect.), and how much the piece is worth.

**Second paragraph** should be a little narrative about the piece. How was it created? Why was it created? What is the meaning behind the piece? Any interesting fun facts/stories behind the piece (stolen? Hung in the President's bathroom? Anything you find interesting).

**Third paragraph** should be about the analysis of the art piece. It should include the formal aspects of elements of art and principles of design. I have included the definition of the elements and principles in the back of this packet.

**Fourth paragraph** should be about why you chose the piece and why you think it is a valued piece of art that still holds an important place today. The piece of art could have been made anywhere from Ancient to Modern times.

**At the end of the first week of school each student will be asked present a picture of the piece and take about 2-3 minutes to talk about the piece. This will be an informal presentation for a separate set of completion points.**

\*\*\*\*\* Assignment maybe typed 12 pt. font or neatly hand written

## ELEMENTS OF ART

**TEXTURE:** Tactile texture can be touched; visual texture can be seen

**LINE:** A mark that moves across a space or surface. It can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal

**COLOR:** Color can be use to decorate, show emotion, or symbolic.

**SHAPE:** Shape: 2D ( height x width )

**FORM:** 3D ( height x width x depth )

**VALUE:** Lightness or darkness of color: Tones, shades, or gradations

**SPACE:** We move through 3D space. We draw or paint on 2D space to represent 3D space

## PRINCIPLES OF ART

**BALANCE:** Formal: symmetrical or Informal: asymmetrical, can be radial or approximate

**PROPORTION:** The relationship of size or distance from one object to another.

**HARMONY:** Using similar lines, shapes, colors, or texture

**UNITY:** The feeling of wholeness. Using one color creates unity

**VARIETY:** Using different lines, shapes, colors, or texture

**EMPHASIS:** One specific area or object that directs or draws the views attention

**MOVEMENT:** The illusion of motion with shape or contour in 2D space or actual 3D movement

**REPETITION:** Using the same shape / color more than one time

**PATTERN:** Repeating sequence of shapes / colors, the same or different sizes

**RHYTHM:** Regular or harmonious pattern of shapes / colors or sounds "working together"

## STYLES

**REALISM:** Looks real, exactly as you might see it in person. Photography is usually.

**FIGURATIVE:** The image / picture is easily recognizable, but does not look real

**ABSTRACT:** There is an image or picture, it changed or altered in an impossible way.

**SURREAL:** More than real, the image or idea may have real parts.

But, what you see is clearly not possible

**REPRESENTATIONAL:** The image is recognizable, but exaggerated in some way

**EXPRESSIONISTIC / EMOTIONALISM:** The image has emotion or feeling

# ASSIGNMENT #2

## Museum / Art Exhibit Review

You will pick 1 museum to visit and then write a review of your experience. I would prefer that you physically visit the museum, but if you are not in a situation to do so you may review a museum online. The museum maybe local or out of state. Below I have written suggestions on how to go about your visit.

- 1) Of course it's a good idea to have a general idea of what kind of artwork and/or exhibition you are going to see before your initial visit, but before you do extensive background research, it is advisable to visit the exhibition without too many preconceived ideas. So go online and get a brief overview of the museum and the exhibits available to you.
- 2) Once there walk through the entire physical space to appreciate the exhibition as a whole, and get a sense of how it matches the curatorial goals (which you can read about online).
- 3) Chronicle your viewing experience with notes and pictures.
- 4) Write a description of the exhibition (a visual inventory)

## Writing Assignment

### 1-2 page written or typed review

- 1) **Identify important themes.** What is the basis of the museum/exhibit? Is it contemporary, classical, focuses on woman, ect. For example, if the exhibition features a Baroque artist, you should reference historical Baroque styles and content, and use appropriate terminology. Basically give a brief overview of the exhibit and what it holds in it. Also be sure to explain where the museum is located and its name.
- 2) **Critique the exhibition.** "Criticism" does not mean finding fault with your subject. Critical writing involves examining the evidence (visual or other) to make informed evaluations and conclusions. Your opinion is valid, but do not offer simple opinions before you have established evidence from your observations and your analysis. Evaluate how effectively the artwork and the curatorial decisions (placement, viewing conditions, accompanying literature, etc.) communicate the thesis, or theme, of the exhibition. Consider subject matter and the artist's rendering of the subject matter. Engage the context of the works, and evaluate the exhibition in a nuanced way that highlights important themes.
- 3) **Pick one piece from the exhibit that caught your attention.** It can be anything that grabbed your attention. Give the artist, title, date (if known), and

material. Briefly describe the piece and why it caught your attention. **Please include an image of the piece with your writing.**

- It is not enough to simply say you like or dislike a work; you should be able to say why. It is fine to mention that a particular piece evokes a certain feeling as long as you are specific (what aspect of the work triggers that particular emotion?) At this point you can also consider how the display, lighting, and the arrangement, as well as the choice of work, contributes to the effectiveness of the exhibition.
- Consider this as a persuasive argument and use evidence and research to back up your interpretation(s).

## Possible Museum Options

### NEAR OUR SCHOOL

#### Sandy Spring Museum

Sandy Spring, MD

#### Glenstone Museum

Unique museum showing contemporary art in a modern gallery building & an expansive sculpture garden.

Potomac, MD

#### VisArts

Art Gallery

Arts center reaching out to the local community by offering regular classes & gallery exhibits.

Rockville, MD

#### Huckleberry Fine Art

Art Gallery

Rockville, MD

#### New Masters Art Gallery

Art Gallery

Rockville, MD

### D.C. MUSEUMS

#### Smithsonian American Art Museum

Art museum & National Portrait Gallery housed in the third-oldest federal building in the capital.

F St NW & 8th St NW

Live performances · Good for kids

Opens 11:30AM

### **National Gallery of Art**

Permanent collection holds American & European works in 2 buildings & a sculpture garden.  
6th & Constitution Ave NW

### **Hirshhorn Museum**

Renowned modern & contemporary art museum with serene sculpture gardens right on the National Mall.

Independence Ave SW & 7th St SW

### **Art Museum of the Americas**

Museum displaying roughly 2,000 works by contemporary artists from the Caribbean & Latin America.  
201 18th St NW

### **National Museum of Women in the Arts**

Museum devoted to female art, with 3,000-plus works by the likes of Frida Kahlo & Mary Cassatt.  
1250 New York Ave NW

### **Smithsonian National Museum of African Art**

Vibrant museum gift shop featuring unique African artwork, home decorations, clothing & jewelry.  
950 Independence Ave SW

### **The Kreeger Museum**

Art from the 1850s-1970s, with Impressionists & American art; reservations required Tuesday-Friday.  
2401 Foxhall Rd NW  
Opens 12PM

### **Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum**

Smithsonian American Art Museum branch displaying American arts & crafts from 19th century to today.

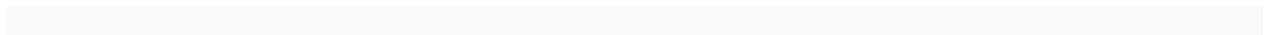
1661 Pennsylvania Ave NW

### **The Phillips Collection**

Townhome is venue for exquisite collection of Post-Impressionist, modern art & events.  
1600 21st St NW

### **American University at the Katzen Arts Center**

Modern Art Museum  
4400 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Opens 11AM



Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture  
Opens 11:30AM