

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All Interested AP Art History Students...
Summer Assignment DUE: The First Week of School

Textbook: Kleiner, Fred et al. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Concise Global History. 2nd Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2008. **ISBN-10:** 0495503797

WELCOME.... *to a quite rigorous but extremely rewarding study of human creation from the beginning of time to the present day! As you may have heard, this is a college-level course that requires students to cover a great deal of content in a very short amount of time. To make things a little less stressful during the year, I would like to you to complete the following summer assignment. This assignment will be due at the end of our first week together, but it should really be completed before classes begin in consideration of additional homework that will be given during that time.*

Viewing and writing about are by far the most difficult skills for those new to the art world to master. Therefore, this summer assignment will ask you to actually go VIEW art and try to talk about it; we will then spend the first week or so honing these skills to the point at which you can feel more comfortable writing about art. Due to the nature of this assignment, your grade will be based on how thoroughly and thoughtfully you complete the requirements as opposed to the current level of your art analysis skills. You will need to complete the following requirements.

- ✓ **Read the articles about Christo's most recent installation in New York City**
- ✓ **Read and highlight the handout entitled A Short Guide to Writing About Art.**
- ✓ **Visit any art museum** by yourself or as part of an AP Art History "group outing." The San Diego Museum of Modern Art in La Jolla or Downtown, the Art Museum in Balboa Park, the Norton-Simon Museum in Pasadena, or the Getty Museum in LA are just a few such museums you could visit.
- ✓ **Attach your admission ticket stub to your response sheet.**
- ✓ **Complete a 2-3 page response to your visit that, in paragraph form:**
 - 1) Defines art and offers your own personal criteria for what makes "good" art.
 - 2) Explains whether or not Christo's recent installation meets your criteria for "good" art.
 - 3) Selects one example from your visited museum that best represents your criteria for "good" art, and one that definitely does not. Then explain your reasoning for these selections.
 - 4) Selects a work of modern art (preferably abstract or where the subject matter of the work is not entirely clear) that grabbed your attention while at the museum. Please include the artist and title of the piece as well as written description and/or sketch of what the painting reminded you of, how it made you feel, or even why this work grabbed your attention. Your discussion of this work will need to highlight several references to the "elements of art" that you had read about in your Short Guide to Writing About Art handout.
 - 5) Provides an overall commentary on your visit that includes any big name artists you recognized or names you saw often, and any suggestions as to how the museum could alter its layout/ displays to provide a more meaningful or enjoyable viewing experience for you. If no suggestions apply, feel free to comment on what the museum did well.

Purely Optional Recommended Summer Reading:

For those who want to get a better feel for the art world or simply gain exposure to books that attempt to describe art, I recommend the following readings as they will help expand your art-related vocabulary.

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*
Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*

Strickland, Carol. *The Annotated Mona Lisa*. Kansas City; Andrews & McMeel, 1992.
(This book will serve as a great reference guide for your studies throughout the year because it is a relatively easy to read and it contains a well-laid out summary of different artistic periods)

AP ART HISTORY SUMMER READING RUBRIC
35 points

Yes 5 points	Somewhat 3 points	No 0 points	Criteria
			A ticket stub is attached from your museum visit
			<p>Includes a clearly stated paragraph discussion of how YOU define art and view “good” and “bad” art in your own words. Please do not use a dictionary for this.</p> <p>Each explanation should be supported by a description of an example of “good” work of art you spotted during a museum visit and an example of a “bad” work of art that fit your definition.</p>
			Includes a clearly stated paragraph discussion, based on your previously stated criteria, that evaluates whether or not Christo’s Orange Gates in NYC represents “good” or “bad” art . The discussion makes reference to information or quotes from the article to support your commentary.
			<p>Comments on a work of modern or abstract work of art that grabbed your attention at the museum.</p> <p>Includes your reaction to the piece.</p> <p>Explains your reasoning by referring to some of its elements (line, shape, space, shading, color) and/or its composition (balance, rhythm, scale.) The list of questions at the end of the handout can be very helpful in this process.</p>
			<p>Evaluates your visit to the museum by commenting on the following:</p> <p>A list of any major names that you saw often or artists/works that appeared to be highlighted by the museum as “famous”.</p> <p>Suggestions for how the museum might alter its layout or displays to create a more meaningful/enjoyable experience for you. If no suggestions apply, feel free to comment on why you liked the layout and featured exhibits.</p>

_____/10 points **Your overall commentary is thoughtful, reflective, and thorough.** It is clear that you spent time “looking at the works”, reflecting on them, relating them to handout readings (when necessary), and carefully expressing your thoughts in writing. **“Accuracy” is far less important at this stage than an obvious attempt to jump into art analysis as best you can!**

TOTAL: _____/35 points

Comments: