

AP Art History Summer Assignments 2010

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Summer assignments are recommended and should be completed by all students entering AP Art History. This course incorporates art from the time of Egyptian dynasties to the contemporary sculpture of Joseph Havel. It considers painting, sculpture, architecture and the decorative arts, and how social, political and economic events influenced the direction and style of art. Art is a reflection of the times. The purpose of the summer suggestions is to expose you to these elements through museum exhibitions and through some fun yet on-point reading. We are planning several trips: class trip to Ft. Worth in September, N.Y.C. in February together with a number of day field trips to museums and .

Books:

The Lost Painting by Jonathan Harr. Random House. 2005. This novel based on a true story is about the work of two graduate students working in Rome to uncover the provenance and location of a painting by Caravaggio. It is a splendid blend of contemporary detective story and history. The reader travels to Rome, London and Scotland and learns about lives of the artist, restoration and preservation, and the provenance of works of art. **Bonus 50 Pts**

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Eric Lawson. Random House. 2004. This novel tells the tale of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, its planning, design and implementation, and parallels this heroic process with a murder mystery. Frederick Olmstead who designed Central Park, Mead & White, George Ferris and others participate in this rebuttal to Paris and it's Eiffel Tower. **Bonus 50 Points**

Museums: See the exhibits indicated below, which are all radically different, and choose 2 works from each exhibit that you find most interesting, draw a quick sketch (drawing is not a part of the course) or buy a postcard of the work, and explain why you chose that particular work. These exhibits do not last all summer, so check them out on the web site as to time and duration – please don't wait. **DUE:** 1st week of class.

Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, Houston (MFAH.org) Free on Thursday, Free on week-ends with Houston library card.

The Masterworks of Charles M. Russell: A Retrospective of Paintings and Sculpture

On view June 6 - August 29, 2010 **and**

Katsura: Picturing Modernism in Japanese Architecture, Photographs by Ishimoto Yasuhiro

On view June 20 - September 12, 2010 At the Audrey Jones Beck Building

The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, Houston. (Menil.org) Free.

Steve Wolfe on Paper, April 2–July 25, 2010

Or if you travel, a major arts museum exhibition in the city you visit over the summer.

