



Additional Course Notes for 'Looking at the Overlooked' - Ten Masterworks in Focus

Whilst analysing in-depth, ten renowned masterworks from the early Renaissance through to the end of the nineteenth century, we will develop a critical understanding of works of art, placing them in the context in which they are found. Thus it is hoped that the skills of research and critical analysis will be nurtured to further one's ability to effectively communicate understanding and knowledge of Art History. This will include an awareness of art historical terms, concepts and issues.

In our formal visual analysis of artworks, we will investigate key aspects such as scale, light, colour, tone, composition, setting, pictorial space, depth and distance. Clearly a good deal of attention will be given to materials and processes – namely the 'facture' of each given piece. Furthermore, contextual discussion of subject-matter will inevitably ensue, in terms of the socio-economic, religious and political/historical circumstances surrounding the artworks. The role of patronage will be considered in each case, as will the reception of our selected works.

Some theoretical understanding will be developed, focussing on established views by authorities, whilst allowing plenty of healthy 'air time' for personal judgements to be made.

The works selected for in-depth study deliberately transcend several periods in the western tradition of Art History, whilst also representing a range of genres or subject matter.

Selected Masterworks for Analysis

The Hunt in the Forest by Paolo Uccello

The Annunciation by Fra Angelico

La Primavera by Sandro Botticelli

The School of Athens by Raphael

The Tempest by Giorgione

An Allegory of the Vanities of Human Life by Harmen Steenwyck

The Death of Marat by Jacques-Louis David

The Raft of the Medusa by Théodore Géricault

Ophelia by Sir John Everett Millais

A Bar at the Folies-Bergère by Edouard Manet

Suggested Reading List

Acton, M. *Learning to Look at Painting*, Routledge, 2007
Clarke, M. *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Art Terms*, Oxford University Press, 2010
Schama, S *The Power of Art*, BBC Books, 2006
de Rynck, P *How to Read a Painting*, Harry N. Abrams, 2004
Graham-Dixon, A *Art: The Definitive Visual Guide*, DK, 2008
Berger, J *Ways of Seeing*, Penguin, 2008
Clark, K *Looking at Pictures*, Beacon Press, 1968

Art History Learning Resources

[Art History 101](#): chronological articles throughout the history of art

[Art History Resources on the Web](#): global in-depth hyperlinked lists divided by period and geographic area

[Smarthistory at the Khan Academy](#): over 1,000 videos and essays on art from around the world and across time

Glossaries

[Art History Archive Glossary of Terms](#)

[Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms](#)

Image collections

[Artcyclopedia](#): comprehensive index of artists represented at museum sites, image archives, and other online resources

[Art Project – Cultural Institute – Google](#): brings together millions of artifacts from multiple partners in a virtual museum enabling visitors to view artworks online in extraordinary detail

National museums' and galleries' teaching and learning resources

[National Gallery, Learning, London](#)

[Smithsonian Institution, Learning, Washington, DC](#)

Art history and cultural news

[The Art Newspaper](#): news of events in and affecting the world of visual arts

[Culture 24](#): latest news, exhibition reviews and features for UK museums, galleries, heritage and archaeology sites