

June 20, 2007

Chantilly High School  
SUMMER PREPARATION FOR  
ADVANCED PLACEMENT  
ART HISTORY

FALL 2007

Dear Student:

Welcome to an exciting year of A. P. Art History! You will need to prepare for the course with a summer assignment to focus your senses on art in a way that may be new to you. Please complete the attached assignment of activities and bring your journal to our first class in September.

I am looking forward to exploring the world of art with you. Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Judy Politzer  
A.P. Art History

Attachments

Chantilly High School  
Mrs. Politzer

# A.P. ART HISTORY

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

***“Art transfigures while it transfixes. It is Art that molds, remakes, and preserves. The story of Art is the story of Man.”***

Andre Malraux

The following activities are to prepare you for exploring and explaining Art. You are beginning an effort **to see, to gain insight and knowledge into the story of humanity as spoken through the visual arts.** At the start of your personal investigation, keep in mind the process of observing and internalizing the visual arts requires a response of mind, body and spirit. YOUR life experience, feelings, and questions are part of this process.

**Please keep a journal or notebook for your thoughts and observations.** You are asked to undertake a search into multiple levels of understanding. Take time to consider the ideas presented to you.

**Please date the entries in your journal.** These entries will reveal a growth in understanding over the summer.

The following words are often used without thoughtful consideration. Please explore the multiple meanings of the words to stretch your comprehension. **Document this in your journal.**

**\*reality      \*imagination      \*illusion**

**Explore various interpretations of these words as you look at art.** Note your personal experience of each. When you observe and investigate the art, search for what is unique and complex about any painting, sculpture, or architectural structure.

### GALLERY VISIT

**You are expected to visit the National Gallery of Art, East and West wings** (see attached map). **Record your impressions of your visits to the museum.** Be sure to see the current exhibits: *Rembrandt's Titus; Private Treasures: Four Centuries of European Master Drawings; Eugene Boudin; Prints by Jasper Johns;*

*Fabulous Journeys and Faraway Places: Travels on Paper 1450-1700; and Claude Lorrain: The Painter as Draftsman, Drawings from the British Museum.*

The following are themes and subjects of art history.

**Locate and record a work in each of the following categories:**

- \*landscape   \*portrait   \*still life   \*genre (scene of everyday life)
- \*history painting   \*religious painting

At least **three** of your six selections should include a work that you love, are curious about and have trouble understanding.

Make sketches of the art or purchase postcards of your selections. **Identify the artist, title, date, and medium and record this information in your journal.** Keep a record of your questions which are provoked by the various paintings, sculpture, prints, or architecture, etc. If you visit other museums in D.C. or elsewhere during your travels this summer, keep a record of these visits.

What is your personal understanding of the following quote?

*“The eye is the window of the soul.”*

Leonardo da Vinci

In conclusion...

**Why are you electing a year in Art History???**

CHECK LIST:

1. Journal or notebook (lined or unlined, your choice of size from 5”x 8” up) may be purchased at any bookstore or art store.
2. Discussion of significant words (reality, illusion, etc.)
3. Visit to the National Gallery (postcards, questions).
4. Discussion of quote
5. Reason for electing to take A.P. Art History

Enjoy your exploration!