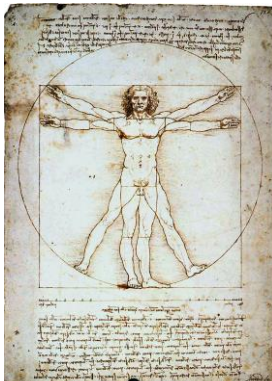


History of Art - Summer 'to do' list

Book and Film List

Summer Exhibitions

When the ancient Greeks reflected on the role of the arts in society they did not separate painting and sculpture from poetry and drama – all were considered together. We find a similar attitude during the Renaissance when the skilled craftsman who fashioned the great cathedrals was re-imagined as the literate intellectual- giving us a new concept of 'the artist' as technician, designer, theorist and author. Alberti, Leonardo and Michelangelo are the most famous examples of this 'Renaissance Man', whose creativity ranged from painting, sculpture and architecture through to the writing of drama, poetry and philosophy.



Later movements, such as Romanticism, Realism and Symbolism, encompassed both literature and art from the beginning, whereas others began exclusively as one art-form before taking on the other. The literary Surrealism of Breton and Aragon, for example, soon led to the painting of Magritte and Dali, while the Cubism of Picasso and Braque influenced the novels and poetry of Woolf and Stein.

Things to do in the Holidays and Films to watch

Compulsory

Enjoy visiting some exhibitions! Please find an example of a work you are really attracted to and **write a full analysis** on it for next term, looking at colour, light, brushwork, shape, depth, scale and how emotion is communicated. (Please attach the photo or postcard of the work to your analysis.) Look at John Berger's *Ways of Seeing* to help you (details below)

Look out for different shapes in architecture as you walk down the street thinking about how the shapes suit the function of the building.

EXTENSION - Here are listed some interesting books and films – Enjoy!

Books

Fiction:

Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*

This work opens with a description of the 14th century Bubonic Plague in Florence and leads into an introduction of a group of seven young women and three young men who fled from plague ridden Florence to a villa in the countryside. To pass the time, each member of the party tells one story for every one of the ten nights spent at the villa. The collection of 100 short stories is a fascinating and hilarious insight into Renaissance society.

Susan Cahill, *The Smiles of Rome*

This beautiful book is a collection of small essays written by some of the world's best writers including Dickens, Browning, Goethe, James, Wharton. The essays are unified by the subject of Rome and Cahill places each essay in context within the eternal city.

Charles Dickens, *Pictures from Italy*

Probably some of the greatest quotes of all time about Italy come from this magnificent travel diary.

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

Set in a 12th century monastery, two Dominican monks hunt out a murderer. The references to classical text, particularly Aristotle, show the desire for learning that fed the Renaissance. Pay particular attention to the description of the magnificent library and scriptorium.

Andre Gide, *The Immoralist*

A sensual exploration of a character unconstrained by any code of values.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Italian Journey*

A travel diary, this time by an 18th century German writer. Goethe was heavily influenced throughout his life by antiquity and he takes great pains to record the classical ruins of Rome. He was a writer who had a strong influence on the 19th century Romantics.

Edmund Gosse, *Father and Son*

This recounts the struggle to equate religious belief with Darwin's new theory of evolution.

E M Forster, *A Room with A View*

Lucy Honeychurch is the young Edwardian lady touring Italy with her overbearing older cousin and chaperone, Charlotte Bartlett. Forster's beautiful descriptions of Florence and the English tourists are interlaced by a flowering love affair between Lucy and the brooding George Emerson.

Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*

A young lawyer from Massachusetts travels to work in a sculptor's studio in Rome. His attempts at art and love fail, and he dies in Switzerland.

James Joyce, *The Dubliners*

This book is a collection of 15 short stories that each centre on Joyce's idea of an epiphany: a moment where a character has a special moment of self-understanding or illumination.

Lucy Moore, *Liberty*

An account of five women, all from different backgrounds but their lives interweave and influence the men during the French Revolution.

Susan Sontag, *The Volcano Lover*

Despite having nothing to do with art this book does present a fascinating picture of grand tours, 18th century obsessions with curiosities and Vesuvius.

Irwin Stone, *The Agony and the Ecstasy*

This is a biographical novel of Michelangelo Buonarroti and covers the grand scope of Michelangelo's life. This book has been turned into a film of the same name but the movie only centres around Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel and his relationship with Julius II.

Patrick Suskind, *Perfume. Paris in the 18th century*

H G Wells *The Time Machine*

An early example of science-fiction with bleak predictions for humanity.

Virginia Woolf, *Flush*

A delightful tale of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's travels in Italy, from the point of view of their pet cocker spaniel!

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

The story centres on the Ramsay family and their visits to the Isle of Skye in Scotland between 1910 and 1920. The plot is secondary to philosophical introspection.

Emile Zola *Nana*

A wonderful account of life in the new 19th century Paris, centred around Nana, a high class courtesan.

The Romantic poets below are worth investigation: Byron, Browning, Keats, Hardy, Shelley

Non Fiction:

John Berger, Ways of Seeing

The book criticises traditional Western cultural aesthetics by raising questions about hidden ideologies in visual images. The book consists of seven numbered essays: four using words and images, and three essays using only images. Ways of Seeing is considered to be a seminal text for current studies of visual culture and art history.

Anita Brookner, Soundings

This collection of essays chronicles the achievements of French painters, such as Gericault, Ingres and Delacroix, their stylistic and philosophical rivalries and disputes. In doing so, she confronts the complex clashes of the Romantic and Classical movements themselves. The book moves on to Rousseau, "The Social Contract", examining his relationship to the philosophers of the day and to Diderot. A variety of pieces on 18th- and 19th-century French art and literature, including Stendhal, Baudelaire, Corot and Courbet, also appear in this collection.

Anita Brookner, Jacques Louis David

About the life of the painter.

Andrew Graham-Dixon, Art

A new and very big book which closely parallels the new AS History of Art syllabus.

Christopher Hibbert, Florence – The Biography of a City

An excellent study of the entire history of this important city.

Christopher Hibbert, The Rise and Fall of the House of Medici

A wonderful story about the Medici family in Florence, giving an account of life in Florence during the Renaissance (15th century) as well as family politics and art.

Hugh Honour and John Fleming, A World History of Art

Full, comprehensive and has everything in it!

Robert Hughes, The Shock of the New

Based on the TV series by Hughes this book offers a brilliant survey of modern art and an analysis of the accelerated cultural change which it bred. The TV series can be watched through Youtube.

Georgio Vasari, The Lives of the Artists

Accounts of the lives of Artists from Giotto through the Renaissance. Some lovely stories.

Marina Warner Monuments and Maidens

Essays on Art Historical themes.

Films

The Agony and the Ecstasy.

About the life of Michelangelo, particularly focussed on The Sistine Chapel.

Caravaggio – Life of the 17th century Artist

Antoinette

About Marie Antoinette in Versailles – 18th Century Rococo setting.

Napoleon starring Christian Clavier and Isabella Rossellini

This is a wonderful historical epic.

Camile Claudel Starring Isabelle Adjani.

About the life of Camile Claudel who played such a significant role in Rodin's lifetime and was a sculptures in her own right.

Vincent and Theo

Tells the dramatic story of Vincent van Gogh.

The more you read and watch the more you understand and empathise with the periods.

Museums and Exhibitions in the Summer

British Museum Greek and Roman collection

Courtauld Gallery. Permanent collection 19th and 20th centuries.

National Gallery Permanent collection from Gothic through to 19th century. Artists such as Duccio, Masaccio, Van Eyck, Piero della Francesca, Bellini, Titian, Leonardo, Bronzino, Velasquez, Ingres, Constable, Turner and the Impressionists.

National Portrait Gallery. Russia and the Arts. Permanent collection. Theme of image and identity.

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Until 21st August

Tate Britain and **Tate Modern.** Permanent collections. Giacometti Exhibition.

The Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham.

Victoria and Albert Museum. The sculptures and cast rooms.

Wallace Collection Wonderful works of art collected in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Watts Gallery: 19th century English art.

Other Suggestions:

- Red House, Bexleyheath, Kent (William Morris and the Arts and Crafts)
- Charleston House, nr Lewes, Sussex (Vanessa Bell and the Bloomsbury Artists)
- Cass Sculpture Park, nr Goodwood, Sussex (Modern Sculpture Park)
- Buckingham Palace (Neo Classicism)
- Westminster Abbey (Gothic)
- Kew Gardens (Iron and Steel architecture)
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
- The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds

LOWER SIXTH RECOMMEND

- Read John Bergers 'Ways of Seeing'
- Look at the Greek works in the British Museum (Parthenon marbles and sculptures)
- Go to the National Gallery and familiarise yourself with a handful of works
- Go to Westminster Abbey or another Gothic cathedral (eg Salisbury, Gloucester, Canterbury)
- Write an essay on one work either a painting or sculpture dated between 1200 and 1950.
- Watch some great videos on artists (many are available on Youtube).