

Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art Humanities W1121



Art Humanities explores the nexus of images and vision that shaped past epochs, which in turn shape our own. Through close visual analysis of iconic monuments and intimate study of works in New York's world-class museums, we ask how human subjects and cultures were formed in and by the classical art of Antiquity, the religious art of the Middle Ages, the revolutionary art of Modernity, and the major epochs in between. Art Humanities is more than a parade of great artists and artworks—the Parthenon to Le Corbusier, by way of Raphael, Rembrandt, Picasso, and others—though it is that as well. Art Humanities provides the tools to interrogate the visual worlds around us, the knowledge to understand those that preceded us, and the passion to imagine worlds yet to come.

Art Humanities has recently been subject to a strenuous reform process with the goal of engaging critical issues of contemporary relevance. The course ends, fittingly, with Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Cindy Sherman. Their devotion to popular culture betrayed a keen awareness that subjects and cultures were now formed outside of the networks of elite society. But in their art, they opened up spaces to reflect critically on questions of how new media is changing how we view ourselves and. Even more importantly, they shaped spaces in which otherwise unwelcomed identities found an image and a home.

Art Humanities is not a lecture, but an intimate, discussion-based course. It is part of the Columbia Core Curriculum.

Find out more at: <https://arthum.college.columbia.edu>