

History of Art and Architecture



This class chronologically examines the history of art and architecture, beginning with the Art of Prehistory and continuing to Modern Art. Each lesson starts with a basic review of the significant historical events of the time, in addition to cultural norms, traditions and practices. We then go on to examine the significant artwork of the time period and discuss artistic impulse, materials/techniques used, historical significance, meaning, and more.

Each class, students are encouraged to step into a historian's shoes. Students give presentations, read scholarly articles, use their creativity to design their own versions of famous artworks and architectural monuments, and have in-depth discussions (and sometimes debates!) about what they are learning and viewing.



Students use their critical thinking skills to examine artwork from an archeologist's point of view. They work to discern who the people were who made the artwork, what types of myths or traditions are behind the artwork, what it is made of, how it is made, and are encouraged to combine their historical knowledge with their speculation skills.

Each semester, students are required to give a presentation to the class about a significant artist or artistic trend that was present in the time period we are examining. For example, students have given presentations on Buddhist religious artwork, ancient Egyptian pyramids, famous Dutch landscape paintings, Rococo fashion, and more.

By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of artistic trends throughout time and how they were connected to significant historical, cultural, and anthropological happenings.

