

**Armchair Tours of the World's Great Museums
Fall 2016**

**Coordinators: Bunny Fain, Elizabeth Hughson, Roberta Segal, Celene Healy
Wednesday AM, 10 to 12, Sept. 14 through Nov. 30)
No class Oct. 12, Nov. 23. Class TBD Oct. 5)**

Explore outstanding museums and their collections by joining us on virtual tours. Each week we will “travel” to view an art collection, often meet a curator, delve into the history of the site and its origins. Also included is an in depth look at several of the artists represented and their works.

Several “guest lecturers” have been invited to lead a discussion. They are not necessarily class members, however some are LLC members. We hope to have at least one curator from a major museum as a guest, and at least one field trip.

Our local treasure, the RISD Museum, will not be available to us this semester for they will be in the midst of a major renovation. We should note, according to a recent review, that of the top university museums in North America, the RISD Museum is #2 (second only to the Harvard Museum).

Travel the art world from our classroom seats without the hassle of airports, long lines and the expense.

Presentations are not required, unless a class member would like to lead a discussion. We would encourage those who have a favorite museum and would wish to present, to look over the list below. We try to have a representative overview, from the largest comprehensive collections to those that are dedicated to one artist or one type of art. We will visit those who have been established when collections were first opened for public viewing to those who have just opened with innovative architecture.

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Presenters have been asked to give an overview of the museum:
The history of the site, the reason for establishing the museum.
The early collection, the curators' development of the collection.
The design of the site, the museum with visuals
If a curator is on YouTube, etc., he or she can speak about the collection

Selection of three representative works to analyze as works of art

The artwork will be viewed using the 5 "C's"

1. **Composition:** How does the work of art establish a presence in the expression of artistic space?
2. **Content:** What is the quality of the idea and the way in which it is expressed?
3. **Competence:** How well done is the composition, and is the content well executed?
4. **Communication:** Is the artist able to communicate his/her thoughts to the viewer?
5. **Context:** How does history, the thinking of the day and cultural experience influence the artist's visual concerns?



"Instead of 'It sucks' you could say, 'It doesn't speak to me.'"

Potential Museums to consider... (and those that have been selected by

presenters)

- Frick Collection: we hope to have the curator as a guest. She is not available on Wednesdays, but we hope to accommodate her as a brown bag lunch on a Friday.
- Small museums of Provence: Guest presenter, Stan Shaffran
- Corning Glass Museum: Guest presenter, Steve Levine
- Getty Museum: [Liz Palter](#). Elizabeth Bakst will be a guest presenter on the Chinese cave paintings and their innovative exhibition.
- World subway art and the Montreal Botanical Garden: Betty Ann Hughson
- Metropolitan Museum: Roberta Segal
- Minneapolis Museum: Celene Healy and Mary Welch

Those selected last semester:

The Hermitage

The Louvre, the Louvre Lens

The Tacoma Glass Museum

Van Gogh Museum

Rome's Galleria Borghese

Yale University Museum

The Barnes Collection

The three Guggenheim Museums: New York, Venice, Bilbao

Louis Vuitton Fondation in Paris

Possibles:

Last semester we had Roger Mandle as our guest speaker. He spoke about the future trends in museums and community education.

There are two we would like included in this semester's presentations:

Innovative community education/interactive museums:

Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (innovative educational museum in a small industrial city in Japan)

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. They have just completed a digitization project which made 200,000 items (92% of the entire collection) available online.

World renowned established museums:

The Royal Academy

The Prado

Private collections: The Broad Collection

The Weissman Collection

The Morse Museum (Winter Park Florida)

The Crystal Bridge Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK

**The newly opened San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
MoMA
Munich Classical Sculpture Museum (Glyptothek Munich)**

And the list goes on. Let us know if you have been moved by a museum experience, and if you are willing to present.