



The Smithsonian Associates

Dear Art History Certificate Program Participants,

I am writing to inform you about some exciting new developments at the Smithsonian, most specifically the completion of the Institution's new strategic plan. In accordance with this plan, every museum, research center, and programming unit will focus their resources and energy to align with the Institution's four grand challenges: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Universe, Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet, Valuing World Cultures, and Understanding the American Experience. You will notice a subtle shift in our programming over the coming months as we incorporate these themes into our programs.

After much thought and careful consideration, we have determined that our Certificate Program in the History of Western Art does not quite meet the Institution's new strategic goals as set forth by the Secretary's plan. As a result, we have made the decision to end this program.

We know that many of you are in the process of completing your certificate, and we want to make sure you have enough time and ample opportunities to earn the required credits before the program officially ends. Therefore, we are going to continue offering our core courses and electives through the summer of 2011, which will allow us to finish the full cycle of courses both during the day and in the evening. We encourage you to take advantage of these offerings in order to complete your certificate by next summer.

We have been honored to offer such a wonderful variety of courses and electives, which we hope you have enjoyed. While we are sad to see the certificate program end, we look forward to the exciting opportunities the Institution's new initiatives will bring, especially the opportunity to focus more on the arts represented in our own collections. We hope that you will join us as we move forward with these new endeavors!

Sincerely,

Ruth Hayes Robbins
Coordinator, Certificate Program in the History of Western Art
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