



The Smithsonian Associates

## Certificate in the History of Western Art

*Become the expert you always wanted to be!*

**A**rt is all around us. It is a visual language that artists use to challenge our assumptions, forge new ideas, and often breathe beauty into everyday objects. But to truly appreciate any work of art we need to understand the context and culture in which it was produced. That is why The Smithsonian Associates created—and recently revamped—its certificate program in the History of Western Art with a plan of study that maximizes your time and takes advantage of all the world-class collections this city offers.

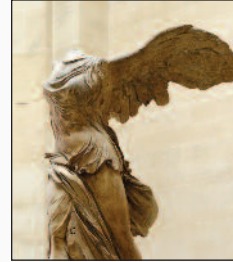
The certificate program forgoes exams and papers. Instead, our courses, seminars, study tours, and studio art classes encourage in-depth exploration of historic periods. Discerning teachers introduce the basic vocabulary and elements in works of art and examine major styles, artists, and masterpieces to further your appreciation of past cultures and increase your confidence when viewing collections.

You will not only gain important insights into art and art history, but you will also have the satisfaction of setting a goal and achieving it—earning a certificate in an area of expertise that will engage your mind and captivate your senses.

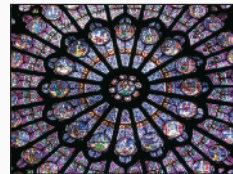
The certificate program's comprehensive curriculum consists of core courses and electives. Core courses focus on the significant periods from the origins of Western art to Modernism. (See the following pages for full descriptions.) Electives offer the chance to explore selected topics in greater depth. Examples of electives include *The Impressionists*, *Masters of the Italian Renaissance*, *History of American Art*, *Introduction to Drawing workshop*, and an all-day tour to the Cloisters Museum in New York City.

To complete the required curriculum, participants select four or five of the core courses plus three or four electives. Please note that several electives will be listed as "Half-credit programs." Half-credit programs are determined based on the scope and length of the specific program. You must take two of these half-credit programs to equal one full elective. If half-credit programs are taken, it will take more than eight programs total to complete the certificate."

**To enroll or if you have any questions, send an email to [artcertificate@si.edu](mailto:artcertificate@si.edu). We'll be happy to hear from you.**



*Nike of Samothrace*



Rose Window, Notre Dame, Paris



Michelangelo, *The Creation of Adam*, detail



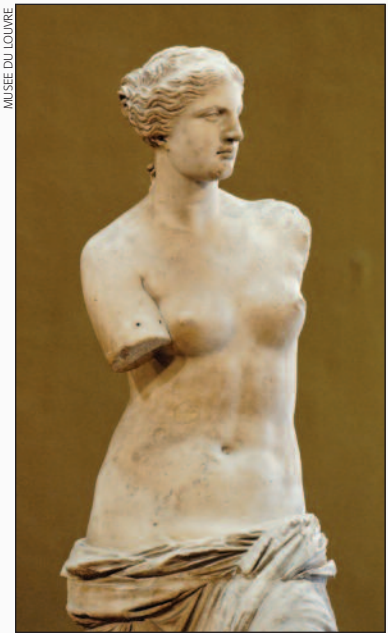
Pablo Picasso, *Girl Before a Mirror*



Painting of a horse from the Lascaux Caves



Ishtar Gate, Babylon



Venus de Milo

## Core Course #1

### Introduction to Western Art: From Cave Paintings to the Colosseum

7 sessions including a field trip to the Walters Art Museum

The desire to create images and objects drawn from personal observations—or inner visions—is an innately human impulse. Trace the evolution of art, from the earliest known cave paintings to the cultures of Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Mycenae, Greece, and the Roman Empire.

#### Week 1: Stone Age and Mesopotamia

Venus of Willendorf, Lascaux Cave paintings, the Ziggurat at Ur, the Ishtar Gate at Babylon.

#### Week 2: Ancient Egypt

Great Pyramids of Giza, Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple, Tutankhamen's tomb, Ramesseum at Abu Simbel.

#### Week 3: The Aegean Bronze Age

Palace at Knossos, frescoes at Thera, graves at Mycenae.

#### Week 4: Archaic and Classical Greece

Metropolitan Kouros, Polykleitos' sculpture, Parthenon, Athenian Acropolis.

#### Week 5: Field Trip to Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

Times are announced in class. Participants provide their own transportation.

#### Week 6: Late Classical and Hellenistic Greece

Sculpture of Praxiteles and Lysippos, the theater at Epidauros, the Alexander Mosaic, the Laocoon sculpture, Venus de Milo.

#### Week 7: Legacy of Rome

Prima Porta Augustus, Colosseum, Pompeii frescoes, Column of Trajan, Pantheon.

Christopher Gregg is an assistant professor, department of art history, George Mason University.

**Location:** S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive, S.W. (except for Field Trip)

**Metro:** Smithsonian Mall Exit (Blue/Orange)

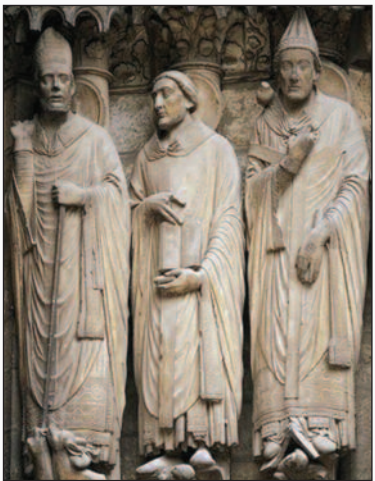
**To find out when this course is next being offered or to register for the certificate program, please send an e-mail to [artcertificate@si.edu](mailto:artcertificate@si.edu) or call 202-633-3030 (M-F, 9-5).**



Wall painting (detail) at Dura-Europos, Syria



Illumination from the Aberdeen Bestiary



Sculpture at Chartres Cathedral

## Core Course #2

### Cathedrals and Beyond: Art of the Medieval World

7 sessions including a field trip to the Walters Art Museum

In the Middle Ages, kings and peasants alike believed in the power of sacred images and stories to mediate between earth and heaven and to lead their spirits toward a vision of eternal life. This course explores the art and architecture of the 1,000- year period between classical antiquity and the Renaissance and its relationship to a society infused with faith and spirituality. Lectures are complemented by a field trip to the Walters Art Museum.

#### Week 1: Medieval Art

Its influence, within the scope of Western art history.

#### Week 2: Early Christian Art

Ancient classical traditions shaped by new Christian beliefs and practices. Roman catacombs, paintings at Dura-Europos, devotional objects.

#### Week 3: Art for the Christian Roman Emperors

Imperial patronage in the creation of Christian places of worship. St. Peter's and St. Paul's in Rome, the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, Ravenna's mosaics.

#### Week 4: Monastic Art

Illuminated bibles, liturgical objects, sculpture reflecting spiritual vision.

#### Week 5: Art of the Pilgrimage

Romanesque churches, sculpture, reliquaries.

#### Week 6: Field Trip to Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

Times are announced in class. Participants provide their own transportation.

#### Week 7: Gothic Cathedrals

The marriage of stained glass, sculpture, and soaring sacred spaces.

Instructor **Judy Scott Feldman** is a medieval art and architectural historian.

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**Please note:** Detailed information about all of the core courses will be added as it becomes available.



Art Nouveau poster by Alphonse Maria Mucha



The Cuxa Cloister Garden



*The Last Judgement*, Michelangelo

## Electives

Electives offer the chance to explore selected topics in greater depth. Examples of electives include *The Impressionists*, *Masters of the Italian Renaissance*, *History of American Art*, *Introduction to Drawing Workshop*, as well as the following:

### **Art Nouveau: New Style for a New Century**

Scholar Bonita Billman explores the Art Nouveau movement, which originated in France at the turn of the 20th century. Organic, sinuous, and seductive, this style of modern art and design quickly spread across Europe to England and America.

### **The Met's Magnificent Cloisters**

Travel to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the Cloisters, a special branch devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. Art historian Ursula Wolfman leads the tour.

### **Van Gogh and Gauguin: A Turbulent Creativity**

Van Gogh and Gauguin painted and lived together in Arles for 3 months—a time of intense art, ideas, and oversized personalities. Join David Gariff as he highlights their work and legacy.

### **Michelangelo and the Imperfect Divine**

This class, taught by art historian Aneta Georgievska-Shine, explores the art and life of the phenomenally talented Michelangelo (1475-1564). The sculptor of David, the Pieta, and painter of the Sistine Chapel, was an archetypal Renaissance man.