Art History: Impressionism, American and Modern

OSHER 428-001
Dates: Tuesdays, 4/2/2013 – 5/7/2013
Times: 3:15 PM – 4:45 PM
Location: Tenth East Senior Center, 237 S. 1000 E., SLC
Instructor: Bill Laursen

Course Overview

Weeks 1 and 2
Welcome and introduction to course, objectives, classroom assistant and Osher announcements.

Topic: American Art: from its simple, colonial beginnings to its appearance on the world stage and substantial contributions to the history of art. Many of the most influential and memorable artists America ever produced will be introduced. Art styles will be discussed and slides illustrating their differences will be presented. Subjects will include: Folk Art, The Hudson River School, Luminism, Trompe L’Oeill and Western, among others. (more American artists will be discussed in subsequent weeks, along with art of the 20th century.)

Weeks 3 and 4

Topic: Impressionism, Pointillism, Post Impressionism / Expressionism

Considered the most innovative, creative and original movement in the history of art. Beginning in France and gaining recognition in 1874 with the first exhibition of Impressionistic paintings, this art movement evolved from a much derided style to the most popular, imitated and enduring styles ever developed.

We will explore the lives and styles of artists whose names are familiar to people the world over. Included will be Monet, Manet, Renoir, Pissarro, Cassat, Degas Toulouse Lautrec, Van Gogh, Seurat, Gauguin and Cezanne.

As these dedicated artists took their easels outdoors in a spirited and determined attempt to capture illusive light and color, they created masterpieces that have delighted millions of admirers for more than 135 years. Their paintings are still some of the most sought-after and valuable items among art collectors and museums today as their value continues to escalate.

Slide presentation and commentary
Weeks 5 and 6

Topic Modern art: Cubism, Fauvism, Dadaism, Futurism, Abstract Expressionism, Op Art, Pop Art and Photo Realism

Ya call that art? My kid could’ve done that! Common reactions to the bewildering and misunderstood world of abstract art. It’s actually not all that complicated and we will see what the ‘fuss’ is all about as we look at and make some sense of this seemingly unapproachable type of art that most people regard as a joke that cannot be taken seriously, let alone loved and appreciated.

Slide presentation and commentary