
UNIFYING THEMES IN ART HISTORY*

**Resources taken from Dr. Robert Coad, Hamilton High School Humanities Magnet.*

Spirituality

- Sacred space and the spiritual in art
- How world religions create very different religious art objects and places of worship

Creativity

- The nature of the creative process
- How the idea of creativity related to art making within various cultures

Realism vs. Abstraction

- The changing definition of realism
- Why does abstractions occur in diverse cultures and periods of art

Intellectual vs. Emotional

- How these different aspects of being human find expression in art
- The role of the spiritual, sexual, and subconscious in art and art making

The Individual vs. the Community

- The role of the artist within larger communities including relationships with their patrons
- Works of art as expressions of both the collective and individual aspirations

Propaganda

- Art in the service of politics and religion
- Art as an expression of power and authority

The Ideal

- Sources and definitions of the Ideal in art and culture
- The ever-changing relationship between the Ideal and the arts

Style

- The identification of issues of style
- How style changes over time and between cultures

Aesthetics

- Strategies of aesthetic valuing
- The changing definitions of beauty in art

Historical Record

- Subjective versus objective recording of reality
- Art as a catalyst for change
- Art as protest and dissent

The Nude

- The human body and metaphor

Change as a Tradition in Western Art

- The concept of modern and its relationship to the avant garde
- Reading contemporary culture and value through the study of art objects and architecture

ART HISTORY CORE ISSUES*

**Resources taken from Dr. Robert Coad, Hamilton High School Humanities Magnet.*

Art	function of art and the role of the artist as historian and catalyst for change
Reality	subjective and objective recording of experience
Humanity	balancing intellect, emotions, the subconscious, spirituality, and sexuality
Creativity	origins and methods of the creative process
Change	action and reaction of opposing elements throughout history
Faith	man's relationship to a higher order and to death/the afterlife
Appropriation	co-opting the "other" and/or the "past" as one's own
Beauty	changing definitions of beauty within and between cultures and history
Power	art as propaganda and symbol of authority
Ritual	the shaping of sacred space
Nature	changing metaphors throughout history
Self	portrait, self portrait, and group portrait
Language	description, analysis, comparison, meaning
Style	differentiation of the individual and the collective

BIG IDEAS IN ART*

**Resources taken from the new AP Art History Guide.*

1. Artists manipulate materials and ideas to create and aesthetic object, act, or event.
2. Art making is shaped by tradition and change.
3. Interpretations of art are variable.

THEMES:	Natural World
	Human Body
	Individual and Society
	Knowledge and Belief

SUBTHEMES:	Conflict/Harmony	Converging Cultures
	Identity	Display
	Domestic Life	History/Memory
	Power	Life Cycle
	Inner Visions	Private/Public
	Text and Image	Performance
	Urban Experience	

THEMES EXPLORED BY ARTISTS*

*Resource taken from Gateways to Art.

Art and Community

Civic and ceremonial places
 Art in public spaces
 Manmade mountains
 Ritual: Performance, Balance, Healing
 Art in the Public Sphere
How does art affect its community?
How can artworks be controversial?
How does collaboration affect art?

Spirituality and Art

Deities
 Spiritual Beings and Ancestors
 Connecting with the Gods
 Sacred Places
What makes a place sacred?

Art and the Cycle of Life

Life's Beginnings and Family Ties
 Sacrifice, Death, and Rebirth
 The Power of Nature
 Judgment
In comparing different cultural traditions, how do their artists represent the life cycle?
How are symbols used in the representations of the cycles of life?

Art and Science

Astronomical Knowledge in Art
 Art Celebrating Science
 Using Science to Create Art
 The Science of Perception and the Senses
 Science of Mind
 The Scientific Restoration of Artworks
How do artists inspire sensations that are similar to music in their work?
How do artist's scientific studies contribute to their work?
What kinds of art are influenced by recent technological advancements?

Art and Illusion

Art as an Illusionistic Window
 Illusionism as Trickery
 Illusion and the Transformation of Ideas
What are artist's motivations for using illusionism?

Art and Rulers

Regal Portraits
 Art to Demonstrate Absolute Power
 The Power to Command
 Art and Societal Control
How do artists convey power of a ruler?
Do royal portraits tell us what a ruler really looked like?

Art and War

Documenting War: Unbiased Fact or Biased Judgment
 Warriors and Scenes of Battle
 The Artist's Response to War
With art of war, do artists try to persuade the viewer to support one side of the battle?
How do artists use medium of photography to convey a message?

Art of Social Conscience

Art as Social Protest
 Art as the Object of Protest
 Memorials and Remembrance
Do you believe artworks should never be censored, or do you think that there are some subjects that should be banned?

The Body in Art

Archetypal Images of Body
 Ideal Proportion
 Notions of Beauty
 Performance Art: The Body Becomes Artwork
 The Body in Pieces
What do artists discover through their explorations of the human body?
What role does the person represented in the artwork play?

Art and Gender

Gendered Roles
 Feminist Critique
 Blurring the Lines: Ambiguous Genders
What obstacles have women faced in being taken seriously as professional artist?

Expression

Making a Self-portrait
 Finding an Artistic Voice
 Borrowing an Image
What do artists explore or convey in their self-portraits?
How does influence differ from 1 appropriation?

THEMES AND EXAMPLE ARTWORKS*

*Resource taken from Valerie Park's AP Art History Website.

Power and Authority

- Colliseum, Roman
- The Palette of Narmer, Egyptian
- The Stele Naram Sin, Mesopotamia
- The Statue of Marcus Aurelius
- Terracotta Warrior, Emperor Shi Huang Di
- The Colossal Heads of the Olmecs
- Temple of Ramses, Egyptian
- The animal head post of the Vikings
- Lamassu
- Versailles, Austria
- The Great Pyramids, Giza
- The Forbidden City, Beijing, China
- The Great Wall of China
- Lion Gate, Mycenaean
- Ishtar Gate, Mesopotamia
- The Ivory Belt Mask, African
- Equestrian statue of the fly whisk hilt, African
- Bayoux Tapestry
- Citadel of Persepolis
- Hadrian's Wall
- The Palace of Knossos
- The Parthenon
- The Pantheon
- The Altar of Pergamon
- Macchu Pichu
- Empire State Building
- Chrysler Building
- Kneeling Hatshepsut
- The Arch of Constantine
- The Dinner Party
- The Seagram Building
- Eiffel Tower
- The Last Judgement, Michelangelo
- The Capitol Building
- The Houses of Parliament
- The Coronation of Napoleon
- King Louis XIV

Nature

- Spring Fresco, Akrotiri, Minoan, 1550 BCE
- Any Chinese Landscape Painting
- Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog, Artist: Caspar David Friedrich, 1818
- The Great Wave, Artist: Hokusai, 1826
- Among the Sierra Nevada Mountains, California, Artist: Albert Bierstadt, 1868
- Starry Night, Artist: Vincent van Gogh, 1889
- Mont Sainte Victoire, Artist: Paul Cezanne, late 19th century
- The Oxbow, Artist: Thomas Cole, 1836
- Ansel Adams
- Spiral Jetty, Artist: Robert Smithson, 1970
- Andy Goldsworthy
- Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Sacred Spaces

- White Temple and Ziggurat, Uruk, 3200 BCE
- Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1279 BCE
- Parthenon dedicated to Athena, Athens, Greece,
- Architects: Iktinos and Kallikrates, 447 BCE
- Great Stupa, Sanci, India, 3rd century BCE
- Temple of Fortuna Virilis, Rome, Italy, 75 BCE
- Pantheon, Rome, Italy, 118 CE
- Saint Sernin, Toulouse, France, 1070
- Chartes Cathedral, France, 1143
- Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Begun 1506

The Human Body

- David
- Michelangelo
- The Seated Boxer
- Doryphorus
- Polykleitos
- Pieta
- Michelangelo
- Diskobolos
- The Dying Gaul
- Dead Christ
- Mantegna
- Barberini Faun
- Zeus/Poisedon
- David
- Donatello
- David
- Verocchio
- Kritios Boy
- The Creation of Adam
- Michelangelo
- Garden of Earthly Delights
- Bosch
- David
- Bernini
- The Guitar Player
- Picasso
- Ka Aper
- Egyptian
- Vetruvian Man
- da Vinci
- The Kiss
- Gustave Klimt
- The Grand Odalisque
- Ingres
- The Old Market Woman
- Hellenistic Greece
- The Venus of Urbino
- Titian
- Olympia
- Manet
- Nike of Samothrace
- Woman I
- de Kooning
- Les Demoiselle d'Avignon
- Picasso
- Bust Nefertiti
- Portrait of a Lady
- van der Weyden
- Starification Object Series
- Wilk
- The Birth of Venus
- Boticelli
- Madonna with the Long Neck
- Parmigianino
- Abduction of the Sabine
- Woman
- Adam and Eve (Fall of Man)
- Druer
- Cycladic Figurine
- Luncheon on the Grass
- Manet

Propaganda

- The Effects of Good and Bad Government
Lorenzetti
- What Is It That Makes Home So Appealing, So Different?
Hamilton
- Ara Pacis
Marcus Aurelius
- The Death of Marat
David
- The School of Athens
Raphael
- The Ecstasy of Saint Theresa
Bernini
- Augustus of Prima Porta
- Coronation of Napoleon
David
- Liberty Leading the People
Delacroix
- The Column of Trajan
- The Last Judgement
- The Raft of Medusa
Gericault
- The Arch of Constantine
- The Third of May
Goya
- Otto III
Ottonian
- Guernica
Picasso
- The Conversion of St. Paul
Carravaggio
- The Sierra Nevada Mountain, Ca
Bierstadt
- The Anatomy of Dr. Tulp
Rembrandt
- Monticello
Thomas Jefferson

Violence in Art

- Victory stele of Naram-Sin
Present day Iran
2200 BCE
(trampling of enemies)
- Column of Trajan
Roman, Italy
Patron
(scenes from the Dacian War)
- South portal of Saint Pierre
Moisac, France
1120
(Christ in the Last Judgment)
- Saint Anthony Tormented by Demons
Artist: Martin Schongauer
1480
(demons tearing at St. Anthony)
- Battle of San Romano
Artist: Paolo Uccello
1455
(battle scene)
- Abduction of the Sabine Woman
Artist: Geovanni da Bologna
1579
(Romans capturing a Sabine woman)
- Garden of Earthly Delights
Artist: Hieronymous Bosch
1505
(people being tormented by demons)
- Judith Slaying Holofernes
Artist: Artemesia Gentileschi
1614
(Judith beheading Holofernes)
- Martyrdom of Saint Philip
Artist: Jose de Ribera
1639
(raising of Philip on a cross)
- Death of Marat
Artist: Jacques-Louis David
1793
(Marat dead in a bloody bath)
- Third of May, 1808
Artist: Francisco Goya
1814
(murder of Spanish civilians by French military)
- A Harvest of Death, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1863
Artist: Timothy O'Sullivan
1863
(dead Union soldiers at Gettysburg 1863)
- Guernica
Artist: Pablo Picasso
1937
(Spanish civilians/animals/soldiers effected in time of war)

Women in Art

- various statues of Hatshepsut
15th century BCE
- Bust of Nefertiti
14th century BCE
- Panels from the Panathenaic Procession
Parthenon, Athens
5th century BCE
- Nike of Samothrace
2nd century BCE
- Yakshis of the Great Stupa at Sanci
mid 1st century BCE
- Sarcophagi with Reclining Couple
Cerveteri, Italy
6th century BCE
- Head of a Flavian Woman
Rome, Italy
1st century BCE
- Pieta
Rome, Italy
Artist: Michelangelo
15th century
- Portrait of a Lady
Artist: van der Weyden
N. European Renaissance
15th century
- Birth of Venus
Artist: Botticelli
15th century
- Mona Lisa
Artist: Leonardo da Vinci
16th century
- Venus of Urbino
Artist: Titian
16th century
- Ecstasy of Saint Teresa
Artist: Bernini
17th century
- Judith Slaying Holofernes
Artist: Gentileschi
17th century
- Evening Bell at the Clock
Artist: Suzuki Harunobu
18th century
- The Swing
Artist: Fragonard
18th century
- Saying Grace
Artist: Chardin
18th century
- Self Portrait
Artist: Vigee- Lebrun
19th century
- Le Grande Odalisque
Artist: Ingres
1814
- Olympia
Artist: Manet
1863

- The Bath
Artist: Mary Cassatt
1892
- Le Demoiselle de Avignon
Artist: Pablo Picasso
1907
- Nude
Artist: Edward Weston
1925
- Migrant Mother
Artist: Dorothea Lange
1935
- The Two Fridas
Artist: Frida Kahlo
1939

Portraits

- Arnolfini and his Bride
van Eyck
- Las Meninas
Velazquez
- Olympia
Manet
- Mona Lisa
da Vinci
- Otto III
Otoonian
- Hatshepsut
Thutmose
- Man in the Red Turban
van Eyck
- The Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius
Roman
- Louis XIV
Riguard
- The 2 Fridas
Frida Khalo
- David
Michelangelo
- Portrait of a Lady
van der Weyden
- Bust of Nefertiti
Amarna Period, Egyptian
- Head of a Patrician
Roman
- The Good Shepard
Late Antiquity
- The Orator
Etruscan
- The Bath
Mary Cassatt
- Grand Odalisque
Ingres
- Self Portrait
Le Brun
- Sarcophagus of Lars Pulena
Roman
- Allegory of the Art of Painting
Vermeer
- Marilyn
Andy Warhol
- Venus of Urbino
Titian
- Equestrian statue of Charlemagne
Carolingian
- Seated Khafre
Egyptian
- Woman in the Hat
Matisse
- Pope Innocent
Bacon
- Fly Whisk Hilt
- Death of Marat
David
- Mrs. Sheridan
Gainsborough
- American Gothic
Wood

Domestic Space

- Arnolfini and His Bride
Artist: van Eyke
16th century
- What Is It About the Home that Makes it so Appealing, So Different?
Artist: Richard Hamilton
Mid 20th century
- Annunciation - Merode Altarpiece
Artist: Campin
15th century
- French Ambassadors
Artist: Holbein the Younger
16th century
- Roman Pompeiian houses, Italy
2nd century BCE
- Palazzo Rucellai
Florence, Italy
Architect: Leon Battista Alberti
1446
- Palladio, Villa Rotunda
Vicenza, Italy
1556
- Venus of Urbino
Artist: Titian
15th century
- Allegory of the Art of Painting
Artist: Vermeer
17th century
- Vanitas Still Life
Artist: Claesz
17th century
- The Bath
Artist: Mary Cassatt
Late 19th century
- Las Meninas
Artist: Diego Velasquez
17th century
- Monticello
Architect: Thomas Jefferson
Charlottesville, VA
1772
- Tassel House
Brussels, Belgium
Architect: Victor Horta
1893
- The Daughters of Edward Boit
Artist: John Singer Sargent
Late 19th century
- The Red Room
Artist: Henri Matisse
Early 20th century
- The Bedroom
Artist: Vincent van Gogh
Late 19th century
- Falling Water
Bear Run, PA
Architect: F.L. Wright
1937
- Casa Mila
Barcelona, Spain
Architect: Antonio Gaudi
1907