

AMERICAN ART BETWEEN THE WARS

Coordinator: Carol Millsom.

In 1900 Paris was the center of the art world. Fifty years later New York could claim that distinction. How did this change come about? This study group examines the fifty-year period before the great triumph of American art – the influence of Europe art movements, émigré artists, and the pioneering home-grown artists who created America’s modern art. Includes two field trips and an optional one after-class.

Required Materials:

There is no text, but readings will be posted on a website. Internet access is required. There will be charges for museum visits.

After retirement **Carol Millsom** earned an MA in the History of Design. She has coordinated previous study groups on art and design.

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Week 1 American Impressionism; Robert Henri and the Eight

Assignment: In order to create a picture of America in the early years of the 20th century, review any field of your interest (popular entertainment, medicine, sports, etc.). Present in class two factual statements that characterize the country during that time or describe events that occurred then. Example: *In 1913 Henry Ford installed a moving assembly line in his factory for the first time and in that year produced 264, 972 cars.*

Read: Rebecca Zurier, “Seeing New York, Turn of the Century Culture of Looking,” Picturing the City: Urban Vision and the Ashcan School (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 45-52.

Look At: American Impressionism; the Ashcan School (<http://www.Metmuseum.org/Thematic> Essays).

Week 2 The 1913 Armory Show

Assignment: Theodore Roosevelt, “A Layman’s View of An Art Exhibition,” The Outlook, March 29, 1913, 49-54.

Daniel Boros, "The Armory Show and the Transformation of American Culture," in The Armory Show at 100, ed. Marilyn S. Kushner and Kimberly Orcutt (NY: New York-Historical Society, 2013), 113-123.

Week 3 Early Modernism: Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen and the Little Galleries of the Photo-Session

John Marin, Alfred Maurer, Eli Nadelman, Charles DeMuth, Charles Burchfield, Georgia O'Keefe

Week 4 The Impact of European Movements: Cubism, Fauvism, and Dada: Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, Oscar Bluemner, Max Weber, Joseph Stella, Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray

American Art in the Jazz Age 1920-1929

Week 5 Precisionism and the Machine Age: Charles Sheeler, Louis Lozowick, Elsie Driggs, Louis Hine

Impact of Consumer Culture: Gerald Murphy, Charles Demuth, Stuart Davis

Week 6 Visiting Galleries

Week 7 Abstract Nature Painting and Photography: Georgia O'Keefe, Oscar Bluemner, Rockwell Kent, Gaston Lachaise, Edward Weston

Art in the Crisis Years 1930-1939

Week 8 Rediscovering America: Thomas Benton, Grant Wood, Joseph Lawrence, Edward Hopper

Week 9 The Urban Scene: Reginald Marsh, Walter Kuhn, Bernice Abbot
Social Realism; Art and Politics: Ben Shahn, Rockwell Kent, Walker Evans

The War Years 1940-1945

Week 10 Myth and Dislocation: Morris Graves, Edward Hopper, Weegee, Helen Levitt

Week 11 Surrealism in America: Joseph Cornell, Peter Blum, Marcel Duchamp, Ashile Gorky

Week 12 Museum Visit