

# AP Art History Summer Reading

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Hey there! Excited to get started on your studies for AP Art History? Of course you are! So, what is art history? What is this all about?

First of all, let me say “WELCOME!” and that you are embarking on a journey that will be arduous, but well worth it. You will learn A LOT! Probably the first question you have is, “uh, what exactly is *art history*?” Simply put, it is the study of art throughout human history. We are going to be examining art work that has been created within the framework of western culture and contrasting it with other cultures. Think of it as an all-you-can-eat buffet of art!

## Summer Reading Project

In order to get your bearings, I would like you to get the following texts: they are cheap (they are available on Amazon.com between \$10-15 each) but, more importantly, they are going to be extremely insightful and valuable to you as we proceed on our study of art history. You will not need them all right away but I would like for you to have them before you return from summer break.

- *But is it Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory* by Cynthia Freeland (will need for your Summer Reading Project)
- *The Lives of the Artists* (Oxford World's Classics) by Giorgio Vasari (will not be used until we get into the art of the Renaissance around December)
- *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern* by Carol Strickland (get as soon as possible as it will help you with understanding the art in the course)

**Directions:** For this summer, start reading *But is it Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory* by Cynthia Freeland. There are 7 chapters, each discussing a theme or concern about art. We will be having discussions online to make sure everyone is reading (about 1 per week – so be prepared to read a chapter per week). All that will be required is your participation in these discussions by making a contribution to each topic online.

**What's next?** You will need to email me over the course of the summer so I can set you up on our website, <http://ricardacademy.info/arthistory> refer to this site for all of our course activities. There you will be given a blog to use as a journal for your thoughts on subjects throughout the year and will gain access to the message board where we will have group discussions. This is also where we will be discussing the book for the summer.

You will need to email me by June 25<sup>th</sup> so I can set this up for you – so make sure that you provide me with an email that you check often! Make sure you at least have the first book on the list as we will begin our online summer discussion!

Have a great summer and go to a museum!

Magister Ricard