



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: Mirrors and Reflections in Art

Course code

Q00019169

Course date

Start: 25/01/25

End: 25/01/25

Number of classes

1 sessions

Timetable

Sat 25th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Branch

Tonbridge

Tutor

Caroline Levisse

Fee range

Free to £8.40

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Mirrors are present in several masterpieces, such as Van Eyck's Arnolfini Portrait, Velazquez's Las Meninas and Manet's Un Bar aux Folies-Bergères. In these, mirrors and the reflections they reveal are often enigmatic as they add another dimension to what we (think we) see and deepen the work's meaning. In this session, we will look at the different ways in which mirrors and reflected images have been included in works of art. As we do so, we will investigate the symbolism of the mirror in Western art and culture.

Course description

In paintings, mirrors, and the images they reflect, are often puzzling. The reflected image they let us see points to a world beyond the canvas' edges, i.e. a world beyond the picture plane. It can be the artist at her/his easel, a royal couple watching the artist at work, the skyline of the New Jerusalem, or mysterious people coming into the depicted room...

From Vermeer to Manet, and van Eyck to Rossetti, we will study paintings from the Renaissance to the 19th century in which reflected images play a key role. We will study reflections in convex and flat mirrors, on shiny armors and polished glassware, on windows and on water. As we do so, we will see how reflections are used to complexify the painting's meaning. In other words, the mirrored image adds another layer of meaning, often less straightforward and more reflective.

In many ways, the mirrored image is in itself a symbol of the painting, which used to be considered as "a mirror to nature". Maybe this explains the painters' long-standing fascination with the reflected image.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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