Will I Need a Passport: A Virtual Tour of Great Art Museums

OLLI SSU Winter 2022 Dr. Charlie Goldberg, Dr. Heidi Chretien

Course Description:
So many museums, so little time! In these days of changing travel restrictions, we have chosen to give several virtual tours of art museums that are near and dear to our hearts. It is no means meant to be comprehensive but rather just enough to whet your appetite so that when travel again is possible, you might visit some of these outstanding collections. Each class will focus on one or two countries and will showcase what we call “Smash Hits and Hidden Gems.” We will look at works both historical and modern/contemporary. Works of art have been chosen for a variety of reasons; sometimes because of their critical contribution to the history of art, sometimes for their aesthetic qualities and sometimes, just because we loved them. All works of art that we show you will be carefully identified by title and artist on your screen. This eliminates the need to list them here. You may want to use your camera to photograph any that you are especially drawn to.

WEEK 1 Italy….why not. We will focus our attention on the cities of Florence and Rome with a brief stop at the Pecci collection in Prato. This class will be a delightful combination of Smash Hits and Small gems.

WEEK 2 The Hapsburg Empire: Austria, Spain and Portugal. Primary focus on the Kunsthistorischs Museum in Vienna, the Prado and the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection in Madrid with a short detour to Portugal.

WEEK 3 Holland and England, those great merchant giants with impressive collections. Naturally we will look at the Rijksmuseum, the Stedelijk and Van Gogh museums in Amsterdam and the National Gallery and Tate Modern in London with a few small gems added to the mix.

WEEK 4 The Sunny South of France. Today’s class will focus on small gems from the south of France. Most will be located on the Cote d’Azure (Rivera) such as the Picasso ceramic museum, the Matisse chapel, the Bonnard museum in Le Cannet, the Chagall museum and the Foundation Maeght for contemporary art. We may also skip over to the opposite side of the coast to the city of Collioure to see where so many of the Fauves painted.
WEEK 5  Paris and the North of France. Need we say more, the Louvre, the D’Orsay and lots of other little gems.

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WEEK 6  Time to return home to the USA. We will focus our attention on the cities of the East coast; New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, but maybe too a glance at Los Angeles.

N.B. Charlie and Heidi reserve the right to add works and places as we go along and perhaps even the order of our visits. However, all countries listed will be covered.