

**FROM THE DARK AGES TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT:  
1,000 YEARS OF GREAT ART 750AS to 1750 AD**

The evolution of art has never been as exciting as in the thousand years between 750 AD and 1750 AD. What has been referred to as the Dark Ages is really a progression of light. In architecture, from fortress-like churches to buildings of stained glass and arched ceilings filled with luminescence. In paintings, from the 2-dimensional frescos to paintings in oil capturing 3-dimensional space and psychological themes; from flat, gold leaf portraits of saints to perspective laden landscapes and awe-inspiring religious themes and individual portraits. In sculpture, moving from stiff, frontal figures to dynamic figures writhing with emotion and energy.

Starting with the architectural expansion, we will look at some of the greatest churches ever built, such as the Hagia Sofia in Constantinople, St Marks in Venice, Notre-Dame in Paris, with their flying buttresses, Gothic soaring arches, and Romanesque sculptural decoration. We will study the Pre-Renaissance painters in Tuscany like Giotto, Cimabue, and Duccio. We will compare the Italian Renaissance superstars Leonardo and Michelangelo, to the Northern Renaissance painters Van Eyck and Bruegel. We will look at Rembrandt's extraordinary paintings and etchings and peek into Vermeer's intimate rooms. We will revel in the Baroque age, even explore the exaggerated forms of the Mannerist painters, and end with the indulgent Rococo masters like Watteau.

We will examine who were the powerful Popes, bankers, and rulers who enabled the flowering of such great art: the Medici, the Borgias, Machiavelli, and more, all who played an important part in the Renaissance and ask how politics and money affect art.

Come join me on this stimulating journey through a thousand years of inspiring art.

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**Leader:** Wendy Worth is an art historian and has an MA in conservation biology.

**Tuesdays:** 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. 8 weeks: February 23 through April 13

**Maximum:** unlimited