

GREAT ART, 1715 TO 1915: THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO CUBISM

We continue to trace the trajectory of light throughout the history of art. We have explored the darkness of prehistoric cave art and have seen three-dimensional images on two-dimensional surfaces through Renaissance chiaroscuro of light and dark. Now, starting with the Impressionists, we will see the light itself form color and shimmer out to us.

During the short time span of 200 years, art changed dramatically. Beginning with the refined realism of the Enlightenment—in the work of Ingres and David—art began evolving again. Philosophical attitudes were changing, as Voltaire debated Rousseau about the real; Gericault and Delacroix expressed a revolutionary call for freedom. Art moved from the loose brushstrokes of Turner's seascapes to the startling confrontations with Manet's women.

We will examine the mysterious paintings of symbolists such as Redon and the disturbing elements of Goya's work. We will delve into the world of color and light with Impressionists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Degas; the Post-Impressionists Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Seurat; and female painters such as Morisot and Cassatt. From this effusion of expression we will analyze the cool, reductive art of the Constructivist painters, such as Malevich and Mondrian, searching for the essence of art.

Where does modern art begin? With Futurism? With Cubism? Or with Picasso's *Demoiselles d'Avignon*? Where was art going when World War One began, and how did war affect art?

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

TUESDAYS: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 8 weeks beginning September 28 through November 23, no class on October 12

MAXIMUM: unlimited