

Adventures with Art at the National Gallery (AM)

Lecturer: Maria Martin

Series Description:

In this new series, we will explore a range of subjects including sculptural and decorative art works, colour theory and the history of primary, secondary and other colours; as well as ground-breaking art of the 1960's, 1970's and more recent contemporary art. Art techniques and conservation and restoration will also be touched upon. The aim is to develop participants' knowledge, appreciation and comfort level when viewing and discussing art at the Gallery, with an emphasis on having fun while learning.

Schedule of Topics:

1. Art in Three Dimensions: Sculpture

We will focus on sculpture and decorative arts in the Canadian galleries, where ancient to contemporary Indigenous arts are displayed, and a range of sculptures in various media. We will also look at some works from the National Gallery's collection of works in silver.

2. Sculpture (Part 2)

This week we will visit the European/American Galleries to view sculptural works from the Renaissance to the 20th century, in a range of media such as wood, ceramic and porcelain, marble and bronze. We will also learn about techniques that artists used to create these works.

3. Exploring Colour: The Primaries

We will learn about colour theory, and the historical evolution of the primary colours in paint: Red, Yellow and Blue. We will explore how these colours are used in selected paintings on display in the galleries.

4. Exploring Colour: The Secondaries

This week's focus will be on Green, Purple and Orange, and how they enliven the artworks in which they appear. We will see how contrasting these colours with their primary opposites on the colour wheel will bring out the vividness in each.

5. Not-so-Contemporary Art: The Sixties and Seventies

We will look at ground-breaking artistic movements in the 1960's and 1970's such as Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual, and Installation Art, through works of art on display in the Gallery's Contemporary and Canadian spaces.

6. The Future of Work?

This lecture will take place in the Contemporary galleries, where we will explore the current exhibitions of new forms of artistic expression by a diverse range of Canadian and International artists. We will also consider the evolving role of art museums and their mandates.