

Historical Novels & Non-Fiction Recommended for essay on AP Art History

Teacher: Sandra Quintero

AHS MC Call # (YELLOW dot on spine)	Ames Public Library	AP Art History Reading List Author & Title
F ARCHER	ARC	Archer, Jeffrey. <i>False Impression</i> . 384 pp. Novel/thriller. In the aftermath of an aristocrat's murder on September 10, 2001, for her priceless Van Gogh painting, Anna, a World Trade Center survivor, takes advantage of her "presumed dead" status and travels throughout the world to avenge the woman's death.
F BROWN	BRO	Brown, Dan. <i>The Da Vinci Code</i> . 454 pp. Fiction. Best selling thriller. Proposes some interesting and controversial theories about the Catholic Church and the symbolism in da Vinci's paintings. Set in France and England in modern day. ***
F CHESSMAN	CHE	Chessman, Harriet Scott. <i>Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper</i> . 176 pp. Historical novel. "...story of the relationship between Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt (1847-1926) and her older sister, Lydia, who sometimes served as Cassatt's model. Using five of the artist's paintings as springboards the author offers a moving story of courage and creativity, while she renders a fascinating study of the times in which the women lived." **
F CHEVALIER	CHE	Chevalier, Tracy. <i>Girl with a Pearl Earring</i> . 240 pp. Historical novel. Set in 17th Century. "... Tracy Chevalier uses scenes drawn from everyday life and painstaking attention to detail to tell the story of Griet, a 16-year-old girl who is required by her family's misfortunes to become a maid in the Vermeer household." ***
F DUNANT	DUN	Dunant, Sarah. <i>The Birth of Venus</i> . 448 pp. Historical novel. " <i>The Birth of Venus</i> isn't based on the Botticelli masterpiece that still resides in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. It's based on the metaphorical "birth" -- and transformation -- of a girl-turned-woman whose single-mindedness is constantly thwarted by actions which force her to conform to 15th century Florentine society." ***
F ESSEX	ESS	Essex, Karen. <i>Leonardo's Swans</i> . 352 pp. Historical novel. The story of Isabella d'Este, one of the most famous women art patrons of the Italian Renaissance. "A haunting novel of rivalry, love, and betrayal that transports readers back to Renaissance Italy, <i>Leonardo's Swans</i> will have you dashing to the works of the great painter—not for clues to a mystery but to contemplate the secrets of the human heart." ***
F HAWES	YA HAW	Hawes, Louise. <i>The Vanishing Point</i> . 221 pp. Historical novel. Presents the story of a young girl of Bologna who worked in her father's all-male painting studio during the Renaissance and came to enjoy more fame than any female artist before her.
F RUCKER	RUC	Rucker, Rudy. <i>As Above, So Below: A Novel of Peter Bruegel</i> . 320 pp. Historical novel. About the life of Peter Bruegel. Shows life in 16th century Flanders during the Northern Renaissance, including the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition. ****
F VREELAND	VRE	Vreeland, Susan. <i>Girl in Hyacinth Blue</i> . 242 pp. Historical novel. A professor invites a colleague from the art department to his home to see a painting that he has kept secret for decades. The professor swears it is a Vermeer that he has hidden. The reasons unfold in a series of stories that trace ownership of the painting back to WWII and Amsterdam, and still back to the work's inspiration.

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F VREELAND	VRE	Vreeland, Susan. <i>Luncheon of the Boating Party</i> . 429 pp. Renoir is inspired to paint "Luncheon of the boating party" when his other work is criticized by Emile Zola, and while doing so is drawn into lives of the thirteen people featured in it as they enjoy a Parisian summer during the late 1800s.
F ZERRIES	MYS ZER	Zerries, A. J. <i>The Lost Van Gogh</i> . 352 pp. Mystery. Investigating the bizarre appearance of a fifty-million-dollar Van Gogh painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYPD detective Clay Ryder struggles to protect the painting's owner from escalating attacks that point to a black market operation and a missing SS officer.
920 MEEGEREN	---	Wynne, Frank. <i>I Was Vermeer: The Rise and Fall of the Twentieth Century's Greatest Forger</i> . 288 pp. Biography. Wynne recounts how Dutch forger Han van Meegeren successfully passed off more than a dozen bogus works as authentic Vermeers, Halses and de Hooches.
759.5 HAR	759.5 HAR 2005	Harr, Jonathan. <i>The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece</i> . 288 pp. Nonfiction. "The Lost Painting is a remarkable synthesis of history and detective story. The fascinating details of Caravaggio's strange, turbulent career and the astonishing beauty of his work come to life in these pages. Harr's account is not unlike a Caravaggio painting: vivid, deftly wrought, and enthralling." ****
759.5 KIN	759.5 MICHEL- ANGELO	King, Ross. <i>Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling</i> . 384 pp. Nonfiction. An account of Michelangelo's life during the time he was painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Very historically accurate and explanatory of the technical aspects of mural painting. ***
759.409 KIN	759.4 KIN 2006	King, Ross. <i>The Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade that Gave the World Impressionism</i> . 374 pp. Nonfiction. "...an engrossing account of the years from 1863—when paintings denied entry into the French Academy's yearly Salon were shown at the Salon des Refusés—to 1874, the date of the first Impressionist exhibition." ***
726.6 KIN	726.6 KIN	King, Ross. <i>Brunelleschi's Dome</i> . 208 pp. Nonfiction. Interesting but very technical. Explains how Brunelleschi built the dome of the Florence cathedral. If you are interested in engineering this will appeal to you. **
709 STR	---	Strickland, Carol & Boswell, John. <i>The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern</i> . 208 pp. Nonfiction. A layman's guide to art history provides the reader with a basic working knowledge of art and its influence on society.

**** Excellent, "Quintero's Picks"

*** Very Good

** Good

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