

Impressionism to Surrealism: Art and Culture, 1880 to the Eve of WWII

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Week One, July 7 - 13

Week Two, July 14-20

Dear Participants,

We are so excited to offer this course which coincides with the 150-year anniversary of the first Impressionist Exhibition in Paris, an exhibition that presaged the birth of modernism in all its guises – literature, music, art, technology and so much more. It was an era unlike any before it; it saw the rise of the “new woman,” hungry for more challenges and the right to vote; it fueled the optimism inherent in the World’s Fairs, hosted by nations around the globe, that sparred with the pessimism of massive world conflicts, all of which was reflected in the arts. It was an exciting time to be alive, to witness the turn of a new century, and the new innovations that it heralded.

We are honing in on our readings, which should be ready to access within the next couple of weeks. Many are recommended readings that we’ve enjoyed and that have enhanced our understanding and appreciation of the period. In addition to the readings, we have suggestions for films and television series that give a sense of the flavor of what the artists were portraying on canvas. It is easy to immerse yourselves in the glories of the period and we hope you will indulge!

Classes will consist of slide lectures with iconic images from around the world supplemented with close looking at related works in the collection of the Johnson Museum, many of which are not always on view. We are looking forward to sharing these treasures with you and a week of questions, conversations, and learning together.

Nancy Green

Gale & Ira Drukier Curator, Johnson Museum of Art (retired)

Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen

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