



Rita Ann Tomalin

'I won a bicycle in a National Painting Competition in the 1940s - active art was then put on hold. Retirement became an opportunity to explore that passion. The Open College of the Arts has enabled me - untrained, unqualified and a pensioner - to pursue art. Studying Art History was a joy.'



Included with this course -
A World History of Art
by Honour & Fleming

Registered Office

The Michael Young Arts Centre,
Open College of the Arts,
Unit 1B,
Redbrook Business Park,
Wilthorpe Road,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire,
S75 1JN

Charity number:

327446

Aims of the course

The course helps students to:

- have the confidence and ability to appreciate and analyse visual art in various forms
- understand broadly the cultural and historical context of art
- develop a discerning attitude towards accepted theories and practices in art generally
- develop observational skills through exercises using drawing, sketching and photography
- be able to work with a systematic structure for analysing, researching and recording information which can be applied to any art form in any location
- experience the study of art as an enjoyable and personally rewarding activity.

Course content

The course enables students to observe acutely, appreciate and analyse works of art by the study of a comprehensive written text. The first half of the course presents art history in chronological order, from classical times to the present; the second half discusses the 5 main themes: still life, portraiture, the figure, the interior and landscape. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to respond to works of art not just by essay-writing but by using any skills in drawing, photography or painting that they may have. A further feature is that it is not necessary to have access to large galleries and cities; the course has been written to make it possible to draw benefit from it anywhere by emphasising the value of local resources.

Finally, the course leads students through a regular annotation exercise. This activity helps them to get into the habit of devoting considerable time and thought to particular works of art, rather than giving them cursory attention.

Teaching methods

The course has been specially written to link to 2 additional resources, a 9 hour video sequence '*Art of the Western World*' and Honour and Fleming's '*A World History of Art*', which are both supplied. The course guides the student through 30 projects relating to specific art-history topics. Every student has a personal tutor to respond to their work through 5 postal tutorials with detailed written reports. Tutors have an academic art history background with appropriate qualifications and teaching experience.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students will have:

- acquired a basic understanding of the history of Western art in chronological order, from classical to modern times
- developed the skills to analyse a work of art through practical and written exercises
- gained a structured approach to observation, and the researching and recording of information, which will enhance the value and enjoyment of looking at art generally.

Assessment requirements

Coursework (100%).

A portfolio of work done on practical projects, annotations and notebooks is submitted. Detailed advice on the portfolio is given in the course materials and Student Handbook, which stresses the importance of students demonstrating that they have achieved the learning outcomes.

Please note that assessment is not mandatory unless the student wants accreditation of their work.