

# National Gallery of Art



## School Tours

Top 10 Things to Know Before You Go

# **1. What is the National Gallery of Art?**

# This is the National Gallery of Art.

**East Building**

**West Building**

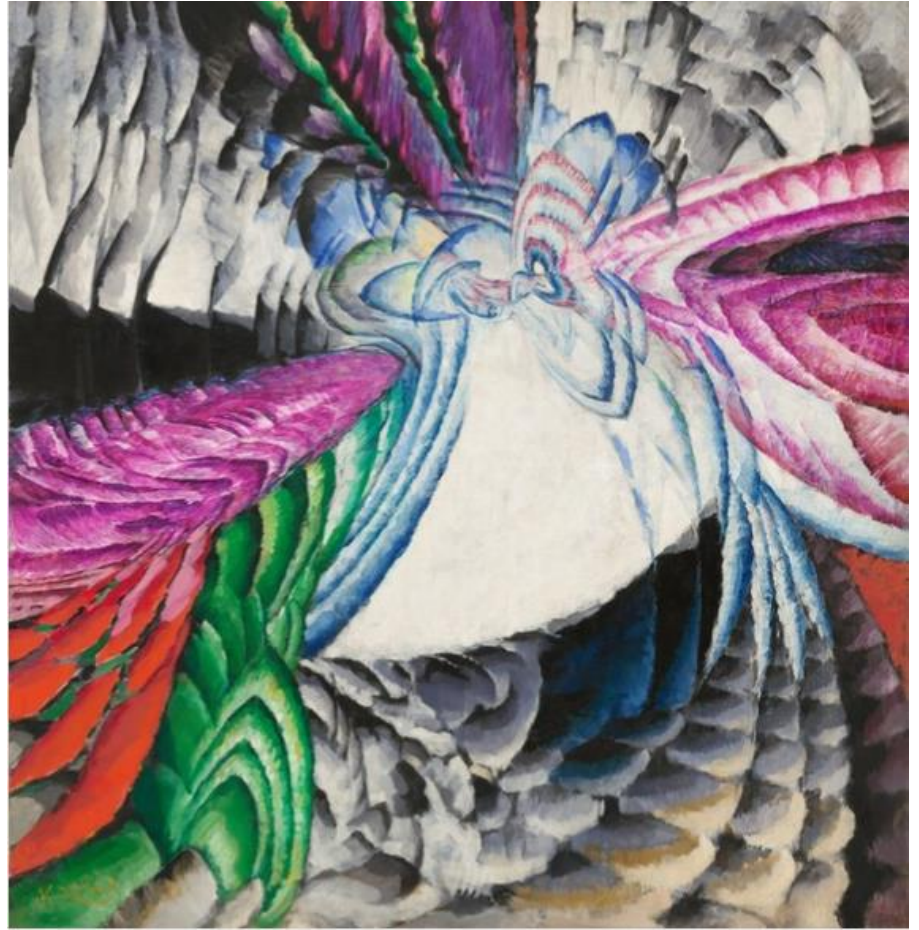
Located on the National Mall, these two buildings—the neoclassical West Building and the modern East Building—house a collection that includes more than 200,000 works of art...

from **Early Renaissance**



Giotto, *Madonna and Child*, probably 1320/1330,  
Samuel H. Kress Collection

to **Modern**



Frantisek Kupka, *Localization of Graphic Motifs II*, 1912/1913,  
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund and Gift of Jan and Meda Mladek

The National Gallery welcomes more than four million visitors from around the world every year.. including you! **Welcome!**



The Fight Between Carnival and Lent  
Pieter Bruegel the Elder  
1567



Portrait of a Woman  
[Name illegible]



Portrait of a Man  
[Name illegible]



## **2. What's inside?**

# Thousands of original works of art are on view.



Pablo Picasso, *Madame Picasso*, 1923, Chester Dale Collection  
© 2012 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



Auguste Rodin, *Bust of a Woman*, 1875, Gift of Mrs. John W. Simpson



Andrea del Sarto, *Head of a Woman*, c. 1515, The Armand Hammer Collection



Julia Margaret Cameron, *The Mountain Nymph, Sweet Liberty*, 1866, New Century Fund

Among them you'll find:

- Paintings
- Sculpture
- Drawings and prints
- Photographs
- Decorative arts

**Any one might be ten or  
*hundreds* of years old.**

# **3. Less is more**



Many museum visitors look at a work of art for only about **seven seconds**.



George Bellows *New York*, 1911, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon



Judith Leyster, *Self-Portrait*, c. 1630,  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss



Auguste Renoir, *Pont Neuf, Paris*, 1872,  
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Collection



Winslow Homer, *Breezing Up (A Fair Wind)*, 1873-1876,  
Gift of the W. L. and May T. Mellon Foundation



Willem Claesz Heda, *Banquet Piece with Mince Pie*,  
1635, Patrons' Permanent Fund

On a school tour, you'll have the time and space to explore **four to five works of art** for much longer..

# **4. The art of looking**

# Press pause.



Edouard Manet *The Railway*, 1873, Gift of Horace Havemeyer in memory of his mother, Louise W. Havemeyer

## Looking takes time.

Let your eyes wander over the entire surface of a painting.

**Walk around a  
sculpture to view it  
from all sides.**



Richard Serra, *Five Plates, Two Poles*, 1971, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation © 2001 Richard Serra

What do you see?

# **5. Think out loud**

# Your ideas matter.

Share them with your fellow students and teachers.



**6. Any questions?**



# You'll want to know...

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?

Original works of art can be important primary **sources of information** about the past.



Jacques-Louis David, *The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries*, 1812, Samuel H. Kress Collection

# But also ask...



Pablo Picasso, *The Tragedy*, 1903, Chester Dale Collection  
© 2012 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society  
(ARS), New York

- Why?
- I wonder...?
- What if...

You might find that questions generate **new ideas and interpretations.**

# **7. Try something new**

# And have fun, too!

There are **many ways** to experience and understand works of art.

On a school tour—or anytime—you might try **creative writing, drawing, or movement** in response to a work of art.

Here's one way...



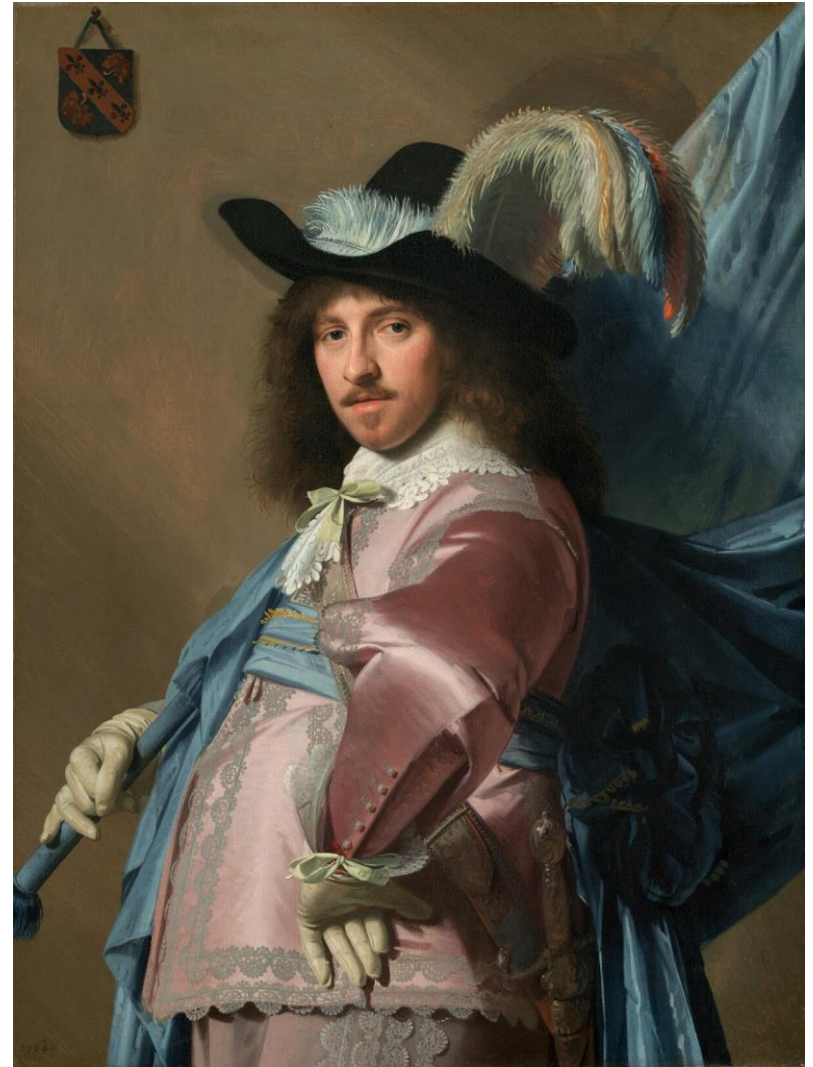
## Strike a pose

Choose a character in a painting or sculpture and recreate his or her pose with your own body. Got it?

Now...

- Imagine how that character might be feeling.
- What might he or she say?

Try this with a group of friends, too—it's called a *tableau vivant*.



Johannes Cornelisz Verspronck, *Andries Stilte as a Standard Bearer*, 1640, Patrons' Permanent Fund

**8. Every picture tells a  
story**



# 9. Be inspired



Be inspired by your visit  
to look for, learn about,  
and **create your own**  
**works of art.**

#### MAKING

sequined banners  
used in the  
religion Vodou.  
bine images and  
the religion's  
ts.



#### YOU MIGHT

#### SHAPE

er shape to anchor your flag

#### and PATTERN

the stars on the United States flag are  
angle and alternating red and white stripes

Favorite color or colors that connect to  
city



**10. You're always welcome at  
the National Gallery of Art**

We hope you'll want to visit with your **friends and family**, too.



# To find out more...

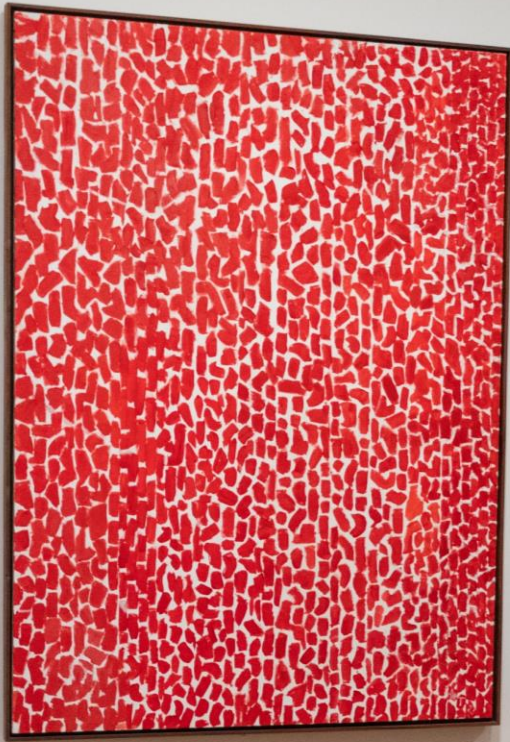


Leonardo da Vinci, *Ginevra de' Benci*, c. 1474/1478,  
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

...including information about films, concerts, exhibitions, and events for families, visit us at **[nga.gov](http://nga.gov)**

**We hope you enjoy your  
visit!**

***Wait! One last thing to  
know before you go...***



Please don't touch the  
works of art.