

Texas A&M University (TAMU) ARTS150 Art History Survey II Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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1. What visual feature is emphasized in the "Ardabil Carpet" to achieve optical perspective?
 - A. Central medallion
 - B. Color contrast
 - C. Size variation of lamps
 - D. Intricate border design
2. In "The Oxbow," what do the contrasting landscapes represent?
 - A. The conflict between wilderness and human settlement
 - B. The beauty of nature untouched
 - C. The struggle for survival in nature
 - D. The peaceful coexistence of man and nature
3. In the context of modern art, what is "collage"?
 - A. A technique of painting with impasto effects
 - B. A method where various materials are combined on a single surface to create a new work
 - C. A form of artistic expression that uses only photography
 - D. A style of abstract painting
4. Which artist is associated with the Equestrian Figure of Bartolommeo Colleoni?
 - A. Filippo Brunelleschi
 - B. Andrea del Verrocchio
 - C. Jan van Eyck
 - D. Martin Schongauer
5. Which movements are major influences on the development of performance art?
 - A. Classical and Neoclassical Art
 - B. Dada and Futurism
 - C. Impressionism and Realism
 - D. Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism

6. What material is the "Sea Daffodil" primarily made of?
- A. Oil on canvas
 - B. Pencil and ink
 - C. Paper with bodycolor
 - D. Wood and brass
7. What defines the style of Abstract Expressionism?
- A. Careful planning and realistic representation
 - B. Spontaneity and personal expression through abstract forms
 - C. Strict adherence to traditional composition rules
 - D. Use of bright colors and visual clarity
8. What is the focus of feminist art movements?
- A. To explore historical painting techniques
 - B. To address and critique women's representation and gender roles in art
 - C. To emphasize the importance of abstraction
 - D. To celebrate traditional representations of gender
9. Who is the artist behind the painting "Appreciating Antiquities in the Bamboo Garden"?
- A. Qiu Ying
 - B. Katsushika Hokusai
 - C. Yi Taek-gyun
 - D. Orchard Factory Artists
10. What major event does "The Raft of the Medusa" politically symbolize?
- A. The restoration of the Bourbon monarchy
 - B. The fall of Napoleon Bonaparte
 - C. The rise of the French Revolution
 - D. The industrialization of France

Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What visual feature is emphasized in the "Ardabil Carpet" to achieve optical perspective?

- A. Central medallion
- B. Color contrast
- C. Size variation of lamps
- D. Intricate border design

The "Ardabil Carpet," a masterpiece of Persian carpet weaving, utilizes size variation of lamps to create a sense of depth and optical perspective. This technique plays an important role in guiding the viewer's eye throughout the design. The lamps, depicted in varying sizes, are arranged to suggest a spatial relationship, enhancing the illusion of three-dimensionality within the flat surface of the carpet. This method invites viewers to engage with the design in a way that conveys a dynamic interaction between the foreground and background. While the central medallion, color contrast, and intricate border design contribute significantly to the overall aesthetic and decorative complexity of the carpet, it is the strategic manipulation of the scale of the lamps that primarily achieves this effect of optical perspective. The other features add to the richness of the carpet's visual language but do not specifically focus on creating that illusion of depth in the same way that the size variations do.

2. In "The Oxbow," what do the contrasting landscapes represent?

- A. The conflict between wilderness and human settlement
- B. The beauty of nature untouched
- C. The struggle for survival in nature
- D. The peaceful coexistence of man and nature

In "The Oxbow," the contrasting landscapes vividly represent the conflict between wilderness and human settlement. The painting is divided into two distinct halves: one side showcases a wild, untamed landscape filled with dense trees and stormy skies, symbolizing the raw power and unpredictability of nature. This side evokes a sense of wilderness and the sublime aspects of the natural world. Conversely, the other half depicts a calm, pastoral scene with cultivated fields and a serene sky, representing human intervention and the establishment of civilization. The tension between these two landscapes reflects the broader themes of the American Romantic movement, where artists often grappled with the relationship between man and the natural environment. This duality in "The Oxbow" encapsulates the choices faced by society at the time regarding expansion and development versus the preservation of nature. While the other options explore different themes—such as the beauty of untouched landscapes or peaceful coexistence—they do not fully capture the central conflict portrayed in the work, which is primarily about the dichotomy between unaltered wilderness and human progress.

3. In the context of modern art, what is "collage"?

- A. A technique of painting with impasto effects
- B. A method where various materials are combined on a single surface to create a new work
- C. A form of artistic expression that uses only photography
- D. A style of abstract painting

Collage is a distinct method in modern art where various materials—such as paper, photographs, fabric, and other objects—are combined on a single surface to create a cohesive new work. This technique emphasizes the physical act of layering and juxtaposing materials to produce an artwork that often explores themes of reality, context, and perception. The innovative use of everyday materials allows artists to integrate diverse visual languages and narratives, thereby expanding the boundaries of traditional art forms. While the other options refer to different concepts in art, they do not accurately describe collage. The technique of painting with impasto effects focuses on the texture and application of paint, artistic expression through photography narrows the medium to just one form, and abstract painting encompasses a broader range of styles without the specific integration of diverse materials that defines collage.

4. Which artist is associated with the Equestrian Figure of Bartolommeo Colleoni?

- A. Filippo Brunelleschi
- B. Andrea del Verrocchio
- C. Jan van Eyck
- D. Martin Schongauer

The Equestrian Figure of Bartolommeo Colleoni is a renowned bronze statue created by the artist Andrea del Verrocchio. This work, completed in 1488, commemorates the Venetian general Bartolommeo Colleoni and exemplifies the Renaissance ideals of grandeur and realism in sculpture. Verrocchio was known for his skillful technique and ability to capture dynamic movement and emotion, which is evident in the powerful stance of the horse and the imposing presence of the figure. Verrocchio's approach was innovative for its time, as he combined traditional classical elements with a sense of naturalism that had a lasting impact on future artists. The statue is notable for its careful attention to anatomy and its dramatic portrayal of both the horse and rider, marking a significant achievement in Renaissance art. The other artists listed, while significant in their own right and associated with different movements and styles, do not have a direct connection to this particular sculpture. Filippo Brunelleschi is primarily known for his architectural contributions, Jan van Eyck is famous for his oil paintings and developments in Northern Renaissance art, and Martin Schongauer was known for his detailed engravings. Thus, they do not relate to the creation of the Equestrian Figure of

5. Which movements are major influences on the development of performance art?

- A. Classical and Neoclassical Art
- B. Dada and Futurism
- C. Impressionism and Realism
- D. Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism

Dada and Futurism are pivotal movements that significantly influenced the development of performance art. Dada, emerging in the early 20th century as a reaction to the horrors of World War I, challenged traditional artistic values and conventions. It emphasized absurdity, spontaneity, and the anti-art sentiment, encouraging artists to explore unconventional media and encounters. This opened the door for performance art as artists sought to disrupt the status quo and involve audiences in new, engaging ways. Futurism, on the other hand, celebrated modernity, technology, and dynamism, emphasizing action and the energetic qualities of life in the early 20th century. These ideas encouraged artists to redefine how art could be expressed, leading to performances that highlighted movement, physicality, and the integration of technology. The radical ideas from both movements contributed to the eventual rise of performance art, where the body of the artist became a medium in its own right and the act of performance itself became a recognized form of artistic expression. The other options consist of movements that, while significant in their own right, do not possess the same level of direct influence on the traditions of performance art as Dada and Futurism. Classical and Neoclassical Art are rooted in established artistic standards and

6. What material is the "Sea Daffodil" primarily made of?

- A. Oil on canvas
- B. Pencil and ink
- C. Paper with bodycolor
- D. Wood and brass

The "Sea Daffodil" is primarily made of paper with bodycolor, which indicates that the artwork involves a method where colored pigments are applied to a paper surface, often with the aim of creating a rich and textured visual experience. Bodycolor, as opposed to other mediums like watercolor, allows for opacity and vibrancy, making the colors stand out against the paper backdrop. This choice highlights a specific art technique typically used in works that want to achieve a more refined appearance, often found in botanical illustrations and similar genres. The use of paper as the fundamental material also suggests a careful and detailed approach that artists often utilize to capture the nuances of flora. In contrast, the other materials listed do not correspond to the techniques or contexts typically associated with the "Sea Daffodil." Oil on canvas is more common in traditional paintings, pencil and ink are often used in sketches or illustrations lacking the vibrancy and opacity of bodycolor, and wood and brass refer to sculptural or three-dimensional works, which does not apply to this particular piece.

7. What defines the style of Abstract Expressionism?

- A. Careful planning and realistic representation
- B. Spontaneity and personal expression through abstract forms
- C. Strict adherence to traditional composition rules
- D. Use of bright colors and visual clarity

Abstract Expressionism is characterized primarily by spontaneity and personal expression, utilizing abstract forms to convey the artist's emotions and experiences. This movement emerged in the mid-20th century, particularly in New York City, and is known for its emphasis on the act of painting itself as a significant part of the artwork. Artists in this movement often prioritized the emotional and psychological aspects of their work, allowing the creation process to flow freely without strict adherence to predefined artistic rules. This approach resulted in vibrant, sometimes chaotic compositions that reflect the inner states of the artists. The core tenet of Abstract Expressionism is its focus on individual expression rather than objective representation. This stands in stark contrast to traditional art styles that emphasize careful planning and realistic representation. The aim of Abstract Expressionism is to evoke deep emotional responses rather than depict the external world accurately. Thus, the option about spontaneity and personal expression through abstract forms encapsulates the essence of this important art movement.

8. What is the focus of feminist art movements?

- A. To explore historical painting techniques
- B. To address and critique women's representation and gender roles in art
- C. To emphasize the importance of abstraction
- D. To celebrate traditional representations of gender

The focus of feminist art movements is centered on addressing and critiquing women's representation and gender roles in art. This movement emerged in response to the historical marginalization of women within the art world and sought to highlight the ways in which art reflects and perpetuates gender inequalities. Feminist artists aim to challenge traditional narratives and representations, often questioning the male gaze and the stereotypes associated with femininity. Through various forms of artistic expression, feminist art seeks to deconstruct existing power dynamics and advocate for greater visibility and recognition of women artists and their perspectives. This movement has inspired a vast array of work that is not only concerned with the representation of women but also aims to empower women by reclaiming their narratives within the artistic context. In contrast, the other options do not encapsulate the core mission of feminist art: exploring historical painting techniques and emphasizing abstraction are not fundamental issues that feminist artists focus on. Celebrating traditional representations of gender typically aligns more with conventional artwork rather than the critique and examination that feminist art provides. Thus, the correct answer highlights the primary aim of feminist art to interrogate and reformulate the ways women are perceived and represented within the art world.

9. Who is the artist behind the painting "Appreciating Antiquities in the Bamboo Garden"?

- A. Qiu Ying
- B. Katsushika Hokusai
- C. Yi Taek-gyun
- D. Orchard Factory Artists

The painting "Appreciating Antiquities in the Bamboo Garden" is attributed to Qiu Ying, a prominent Chinese painter from the Ming dynasty known for his exquisite brushwork and detailed landscapes. Qiu Ying specialized in traditional Chinese painting techniques, particularly in the genre of figure painting and landscape, which often included elements of nature intertwined with cultural references. This specific artwork exemplifies his mastery in depicting serene environments filled with scholarly themes, where scholars are often represented in contemplative settings, engaging with antiquities and appreciating nature. The themes present in Qiu Ying's work resonate with the Confucian ideals prevalent during the Ming dynasty, emphasizing the importance of cultural heritage and scholarly pursuits. His style incorporates vibrant colors and a delicate approach to detail, which typically characterizes his body of work, making it stand out in the realm of Chinese art. Thus, the correct attribution to Qiu Ying not only acknowledges his individual artistry but also places the painting within the rich context of Chinese art history, emphasizing traditional values and aesthetics.

10. What major event does "The Raft of the Medusa" politically symbolize?

- A. The restoration of the Bourbon monarchy
- B. The fall of Napoleon Bonaparte
- C. The rise of the French Revolution
- D. The industrialization of France

"The Raft of the Medusa," painted by Théodore Géricault, serves as a powerful political symbol representing the rise of the French Revolution. The artwork depicts the aftermath of a tragic maritime disaster involving a French frigate, and it metaphorically reflects the broader societal struggles and political upheaval of the time. Géricault's decision to address the theme of human suffering and survival resonates deeply with the revolutionary spirit that emerged in France. The tumultuous scenes of despair and hope depicted in the painting resonate with the public's disillusionment with the ruling classes and their longing for change, both elements crucial to the revolutionary movements. While the fall of Napoleon also marked significant changes in France's political landscape, the themes in "The Raft of the Medusa" more directly relate to the calls for liberty, equality, and fraternity that defined the revolutionary period. Other options, such as the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy or industrialization, don't capture the essence and emotional weight of the artwork in the context of revolution and social reforms. This makes the connection to the rise of the French Revolution the most fitting interpretation of the painting's political symbolism.