

Going to an Art Museum #1

When was the last time you _____ art museum? Going through _____ is a _____, but it is _____ as well. _____ the museum, you get exhausted _____ physically and mentally, but you _____ going to the end _____ of _____, _____ “I don’t want to waste the _____.” This might be _____ to many people. _____ art gallery, we _____ that we have to _____ every single painting, _____ really _____? If you go into a _____ store to buy a _____, for example, you will not _____ every single shirt. Instead, you will only select the ones you are most _____. If so, why are we _____ all the paintings on the _____? Next time you go into a gallery, why don’t you go quickly, _____ every one of _____? Some works will somehow _____ you, and some others _____. _____ all the others and spend a lot more time _____ your favorite pieces.

When was the last time you visited an art museum? Going through a lot of artwork is a ton of fun, but it is exhausting as well. Half way through the museum, you get exhausted both physically and mentally, but you keep going to the end with a slight sense of obligation, saying “I don’t want to waste the ticket money.” This might be relatable to many people. When we are in an art gallery, we often assume that we have to give a closer look at every single painting, but do we really have to? If you go into a department store to buy a shirt, for example, you will not try on every single shirt. Instead, you will only select the ones you are most interested in. If so, why are we supposed to appreciate all the paintings on the wall? Next time you go into a gallery, why don’t you go quickly, instead of stopping at every one of them? Some works will somehow exceptionally attract you, and some others won’t. Then, you ignore all the others and spend a lot more time enjoying your favorite pieces.

relatable	共感できる	assume	想定する
gallery	ギャラリー	department store	デパート
attract	引きつける	appreciate	鑑賞する
exceptional	例外的な	ignore	無視する

Going to an Art Museum #2

“Girl with a _____” by Johannes Vermeer, a 17th-century Dutch painter. The light falling on her face _____ our attention, and the contrast between blue and yellow provides a _____ harmony. It’s fascinating at the very _____, and _____ we never _____ looking at her, _____ because of the conflicted look _____ face. It’s _____ she is happy or sad, so you may _____ every time you _____. This little _____ imagination. Who is she? What does she feel _____? What is she looking at? If she is _____ the painter, what did he _____ to make her look like this? This may not only be a _____ a girl, but also a _____ a relationship. The expression _____ face is perhaps _____ how she _____. Then what is that relationship? They could be a father and a _____, lovers, or possibly a more complicated and _____ relationship. You can _____ the right answer and simply enjoy the _____ imagination.

“Girl with a Pearl Earring” by Johannes Vermeer, a 17th-century Dutch painter. The light falling on her face immediately attracts our attention, and the contrast between blue and yellow provides a distinct harmony. It’s fascinating at the very first glance, and yet we never tire of looking at her, perhaps partly because of the conflicted look on her face. It’s hard to tell if she is happy or sad, so you may have second thoughts every time you come back to her. This little ambiguity excites our imagination. Who is she? What does she feel on the inside? What is she looking at? If she is staring at the painter, what did he do to her to make her look like this? This may not only be a portrait of a girl, but also a portrait of a relationship. The expression on her face is perhaps reflecting how she feels about him. Then what is that relationship? They could be a father and a daughter, lovers, or possibly a more complicated and intimate relationship. You can forget about seeking the right answer and simply enjoy the freedom of imagination.

harmony	調和	relationship	関係
conflicted	複雑な感情の	portrait	肖像
ambiguity	あいまいさ	reflection	反映
excite	刺激する	lover	恋人
intimate	親密な	imagination	想像力

Going to an Art Museum #3

“The Calling of Saint Matthew” by Caravaggio, 1600. It _____ the moment _____ the Bible _____ calls on the Roman tax _____ Matthew to follow him, and is _____ as a defining work of the Baroque movement. _____ it’s quite famous, there has been an _____ mystery in this painting. We still don’t know which man in the picture is Saint Matthew. _____ have been discussing this question _____, but they haven’t _____ a _____. So we don’t have to _____ getting the right answer. We can enjoy the freedom of _____. Besides, we don’t need to _____ the work _____. You can simply enjoy the _____ of the movements and the _____ contrast between light and dark. Also, you can imagine and _____ a completely different story _____ this scene. _____, we don’t _____ have to be _____ by the painting just because _____ a masterpiece. _____ doesn’t _____, there is no problem _____. When engaging with art, you can _____ to be more _____ with your own feelings.

“The Calling of Saint Matthew” by Caravaggio, 1600. It depicts the moment from the Bible where Jesus Christs calls on the Roman tax collector Matthew to follow him, and is often cited as a defining work of the Baroque movement. Though it’s quite famous, there has been an unsolved mystery in this painting. We still don’t know which man in the picture is Saint Matthew. Scholars have been discussing this question for ages, but they haven’t reached a consensus. So we don’t have to stick to getting the right answer. We can enjoy the freedom of various interpretations. Besides, we don’t need to appreciate the work in a religious context. You can simply enjoy the dynamic depiction of the movements and the bold contrast between light and dark. Also, you can imagine and construct a completely different story behind this scene. Furthermore, we don’t necessarily have to be moved by the painting just because it is considered a masterpiece. If it doesn’t pull on your heartstrings, there is no problem with it at all. When engaging with art, you can allow yourself to be more honest with your own feelings.

depict	描く	contrast	対照
tax collector	税金徴収人	masterpiece	傑作
consensus	合意	heartstrings	心の琴線
interpretation	解釈	engaging	魅力的な
dynamic	動的な	honest	正直な

Going to an Art Museum #4

“The Night Watch” by Rembrandt, _____ the most famous work of his _____. Many of us have probably _____, but many of us _____ looked _____ at this painting. As soon as we _____ this picture, we tend to _____ and think, “Oh, I have _____.” Generally speaking, careful observation is quite difficult. When we _____ an object as something we have already known, we _____ give it a closer look anymore. For example, when we see somebody very _____ to us, our brain _____ the person, and we usually do not look _____ into him or her. Classification is a natural function of our brain to reduce the _____. If we _____ everything in our sight, we will soon be _____. However, we may overlook _____ yet important changes such as an _____ hairstyle, a _____ the previous day, or signs of _____ health. Go back _____ to the piece by Rembrandt. It is known by the _____ “The Night Watch,” _____ really a night scene? If you take the time to _____, you will know that no one in the picture has a _____. The left hand of the _____ is _____ a _____ shadow. In fact, the dark _____ of the painting is _____ with time. Someone _____ “The Night Watch,” and _____.

“The Night Watch” by Rembrandt, perhaps the most famous work of his long career. Many of us have probably seen this before, but many of us might have not looked attentively at this painting. As soon as we recognize this picture, we tend to just give it a quick glance and think, “Oh, I have seen it before.” Generally speaking, careful observation is quite difficult. When we classify an object as something we have already known, we tend not to give it a closer look anymore. For example, when we see somebody very familiar to us, our brain soon identifies the person, and we usually do not look further into him or her. Classification is a natural function of our brain to reduce the cognitive load. If we gaze at everything in our sight, we will soon be mentally depleted. However, we may overlook subtle yet important changes such as an alteration in her hairstyle, a shift in her mood from the previous day, or signs of poor health. Go back again to the piece by Rembrandt. It is known by the title “The Night Watch,” but is it really a night scene? If you take the time to observe it, you will know that no one in the picture has a torch. The left hand of the man in the middle is casting a vivid shadow. In fact, the dark tone of the painting is due to discoloration with time. Someone called it “The Night Watch,” and it prevailed.

attentively	注意深く	subtle	微妙な
recognize	認識する	alteration	変更
classify	分類する	discoloration	変色
cognitive	認知の	prevail	普及する
depleted	枯渇した	vivid	鮮明な

Going to an Art Museum #5

“The Starry Night” by Vincent van Gogh, _____ at The Museum of _____ Art or MoMA in New York City. Painted in June 1889, _____ the view _____ the east-facing window _____ room. It is widely regarded as his masterpiece, and considered to be one of the most _____ paintings in _____. What makes it so _____? There is an _____ study _____ Michigan State University that has _____ on the potential of the arts. The research team shows that the most _____ scientists, including _____ Prize winners, were 2.8 times more likely _____ to have an artistic hobby. There must be some _____ between intellectual _____ and artistic _____. What is _____ to scientists and artists is their _____ about the _____ to describe their view of the world in their language. We see the reality not _____ some human _____ and _____. Scientists use mathematical languages to explain the world, _____ artists express their _____ with colors and shapes. Vincent Van Gogh was _____ one of them. _____ he finished this work, Van Gogh _____ sister that he _____ the night sky. He wanted to communicate how the light and wind looked to _____. "The Starry Night" is _____ a _____ of his world view; a challenge to _____ the world in a _____ that nobody ever could.

“The Starry Night” by Vincent van Gogh, permanently exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art or MoMA in New York City. Painted in June 1889, it depicts the view from the east-facing window of his hospital room. It is widely regarded as his masterpiece, and considered to be one of the most iconic paintings in Western art. What makes it so captivating? There is an intriguing study from Michigan State University that has shed light on the potential of the arts. The research team shows that the most accomplished scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, were 2.8 times more likely than average to have an artistic hobby. There must be some correlation between intellectual achievements and artistic excellence. What is common to scientists and artists is their curiosity about the cosmos and their perseverance to describe their view of the world in their language. We see the reality not directly but through some human filters and biases. Scientists use mathematical languages to explain the world, while artists express their perception with colors and shapes. Vincent Van Gogh was among one of them. Shortly before he finished this work, Van Gogh wrote to his sister that he struggled with the night sky. He wanted to communicate how the light and wind looked to his eyes. "The Starry Night" is probably a statement of his world view; a challenge to describe the world in a way that nobody ever could.

captivating	魅力的な	perseverance	忍耐
intriguing	興味深い	bias	偏見
accomplished	熟練した	perception	知覚
correlation	相関関係	communicate	伝える
intellectual	知的な	statement	表明