

# Art Encounters

## Level 3

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

Huntington Education



THE HUNTINGTON  
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

# Welcome to the Art Encounters Level 3 virtual tour!

Each slide features an artwork with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants. What do you like to collect? Video games? Posters? Sports memorabilia?

In this interactive journey, we dive further into the art collection.

Let's go exploring!



# Art Vocabulary

Click on a vocabulary word to start your tour!  
Each word relates to a type of work of art at The Huntington.

Decorative  
Arts

Drawing

Film

Oil  
Painting

Study

Porcelain

Once you have explored all six cards, [click here!](#)

# Drawing

A work of art created with a pen, pencil, or writing instrument

- Do you doodle in the margins of your notebook? Or maybe you practice drawing or writing in different fonts or styles? If so, do you use a pen or a pencil?
- This artwork was created by the artist A.H. Weir using an everyday object, a black pen.
- What do you think of Weir's use of a pen for this drawing? Do you agree with his decision to use this artistic medium?
- Why do you think A.H. Weir chose to draw the woman's hair as a giant spider? What do you think inspired him to make this drawing?

## Activity

Create your own drawing inspired by A.H. Weir. Think of a person, real or imagined, and incorporate an animal, plant, or even an emoji into your design. What did you choose? Why?

**[Click on these links to explore more](#)**

**[Zoom in for a closer look at the drawing](#)**

**[See other drawings by A.H. Weir](#)**



Pick  
Another  
Artwork

A.H. Weir, *Lady with Coiffure in Form of Spider*, 1860, pen.  
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

# Study

A preliminary drawing or painting

- Walt Kuhn was a New York based artist who primarily painted portraits of circus performers.
- The man depicted in these two artworks is Vittorio Falconi. He was a trapeze artist who performed aerial stunts. He is painted in his show costume.
- Look closely at both images. What elements did Kuhn keep in both works? What changes did he make from the study to the final version?
- Kuhn was particularly proud of his final depiction of *Top Man* and considered the work to be his “best to date.” What do you think Vittorio Falconi thought of how he was portrayed?

## Activity

Who was Vittorio Falconi? Did he like performing? Did he visit the circus growing up? Did he want his portrait painted? Write a short story about the *Top Man*.

**Click on these links to explore more**

[Zoom in to the study](#)

[Zoom in to the final artwork](#)

Pick  
Another  
Artwork



(Right) Walt Kuhn, *Top Man*, 1931, oil on canvas. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

(Left) Walt Kuhn, *Top Man [study]*, 1931, watercolor and graphite on paper. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.



# Oil Painting

A type of paint (created by combining pigment and oil) applied to a canvas

- Agnes Pelton was a California painter based in Cathedral City, near Palm Springs. She was a founding member of the Transcendental Painting Group, which sought to create non-objective art. Click [here](#) to view the group's statement of purpose in the Smithsonian's archives.
- Pelton sought to create art that emphasized the connectedness of the universe. She believed art was a way to connect spiritually to the surrounding world. What artistic elements do you think she used to try and achieve this goal?
- The flower depicted in this oil painting is a passion flower (*Passiflora*). [View a Passion Flower](#) growing at The Huntington (click on June, 56). Notice the similarities and differences between the real flower and Pelton's version.

## Activity

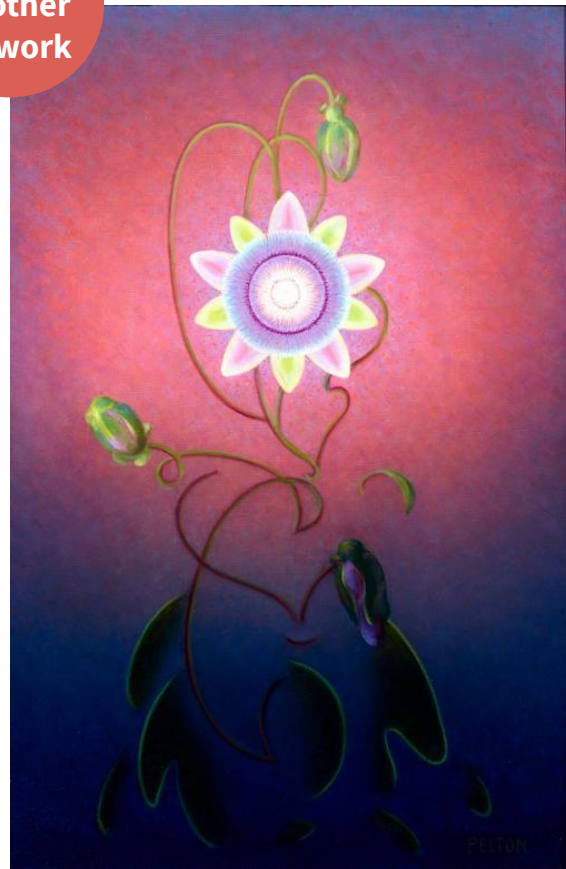
Pelton grew up learning music and played the piano. Music often played a role in her art and she would incorporate musical harmonies in her sketchbooks. Write a chorus for a song or musical lyrics inspired by this oil painting. Think about Pelton's desire to illustrate harmony between nature and spirituality when you write.

**Click on these links to explore more**

[Zoom in for a closer look at the painting](#)

[Learn more about Agnes Pelton](#)

Pick  
Another  
Artwork



Agnes Pelton, *Passion Flower*, ca. 1945, oil on canvas.  
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

# Porcelain

White clay that has been fired at a very high temperature

- Look closely at the *Tea Jar*. What catches your eye? The colors? The shape? The landscape?
- Who do you think the two figures are? Are they famous? Imaginary? Symbolic? What makes you think that? Why are they illustrated on a *Tea Jar*?
- Porcelain was invented during the Tang Dynasty (618–907) in China. In the 18th century, porcelain from China, such as this jar, became very popular in the United States. Porcelain became a big export for China and was shipped throughout Europe and the United States. You can read more about this in an essay published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art [here](#).
- Who do you think purchased this object? Where do you think they stored the jar?

## Activity

Sketch your own design for a porcelain tea jar. Think about the size, shape, and lid for the jar. Will your jar show an illustrated scene like this one, or will it showcase an abstract design or pattern? If you like tea, what type of loose leaf tea do you imagine you would store in this jar?

**Click on these links to explore more**

[Zoom in for a closer look at the jar](#)

[View the rest of the tea set](#)

Pick  
Another  
Artwork



Unknown, *Tea Jar*, Chinese, ca. 1800, porcelain.  
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

# Decorative Arts

Ornate and decorative everyday objects such as furniture, textile, and glass

- What comes to mind when you think of art? Paintings? Sculptures? Installations? What about furniture, fabric, or wallpaper designs?
- William Morris was a designer whose textile and wallpaper patterns became very well known in the 19th century. The *Strawberry Thief* pattern was very popular. This printed fabric was created using an indigo dye.
- Where do you think this textile would have been originally located? Maybe hanging on a wall as art or a fabric used to cover a chair or piece of furniture?
- His home, Kelmscott Manor, was one of his sources of inspirations for his designs. [Click here](#) to view his house.

## Activity

Sketch your own fabric design. What inspired your pattern? What colors will you use? Is your fabric intended to be used to cover a chair, or a sofa, or will it be turned into wallpaper?

## Click on these links to explore more

[Zoom in to \*Strawberry Thief\*](#)

[Explore other works by Morris and Company](#)

[Sustainable Luxury](#)



William Morris, *Strawberry Thief*, ca. 1883, block printed cotton.  
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.



# Film

Recorded moving images edited together

- Look at this video still. What do you see? What do you think of the poses and positions of the dancers? What about their costumes?
- This 9 ½ minute video was created by Carolina Caycedo. Dancers moved across The Huntington's gardens, down the stairs of the Huntington Art Gallery, and through the library. Caycedo sought to juxtapose The Huntington with Afro-Latinx and Indigenous spiritual practices and dance.
- Explore other video stills. Why do you think Caycedo chose those specific locations for the film?

## Activity

Pick a place at The Huntington where you would like to showcase a cultural tradition that is important to you. How does the space speak to your tradition? Does your tradition and the space contrast with or complement each other? Will you incorporate dance, art, music, or theater? Outline or sketch your idea.

**Click on these links to explore more**

[Zoom in to the video still](#)

[Listen Carolina Caycedo discuss this work](#)

[The Vincent Price Art Museum co-owns the film](#)

Pick  
Another  
Artwork



Carolina Caycedo, *Apariciones/Apparitions*, 2018, 1 channel HD video, sound, and color; video in h264 and Mp4.  
Jointly owned by The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens and the Vincent Price Art Museum Foundation. © Carolina Caycedo.

Now that you have explored six different art topics, do you have a favorite? Which one? Why do you like it best?

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Was there an artwork you really didn't like? Which one? Why don't you like it?

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What is one thing you learned about art today?

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Thank you for coming on this journey with us!  
We would love to see your art and writing!  
#TheHAtHome