Homework for Lecture 21.01.2020 – Early Federal Period

Grand Manner

- Wikipedia Grand manner
- idealized aesthetic style derived from classicism and High Renaissance
- in 18th century used by British artists to describe paintings with visual metaphors that suggest noble qualities
- Sir Joshua Reynolds made it popular through lecture at the Royal Academy from 1769 to 1790 painters should perceive their subjects through generalization and idealization and not careful copy of nature
- originally regarding history painting, later also portrait painting
- portraits showed subjects life size and full-length, surroundings conveyed the nobility and elite status of the subjects
- common background elements: classical architecture (sophistication, cultivation), pastoral backgrounds (virtuous character, unpretentious, sincere, undefiled by wealth and estates)



Figure 1: The Expulsion of Heliodorus from the Temple - Raphael, 1512



Figure 2: Jane, Countess of Harrington - Joshua Reynolds, 1778

John Trumbull

- Wikipedia John Trumbull
- 06.06.1756 10.11.1843
- Revolutionary War veteran, artist of the early independence period
- The Painter of the Revolution
- born in Connecticut, father was Governor of Connecticut
- descendant of early Puritan settlers
- lost an eye in an accident, went to Harvard College

- soldier in the war, sketched battle lines at Boston
- poor, in 1780 he turned to art
- went to London and learned from Benjamin West paints small pictures of the war
- returned to the US in 1782, back to London in 1784 to continue studies
- got a picture accepted for display at the Royal Academy
- went to Paris in 1786, starts working on Declaration of Independence
- he travelled and painted all the signers to add to the larger painting



Figure 3: Declaration of Independence - John Trumbull, 1818

- he fell on hard times before selling 88 works to Yale University
- continued to paint American personalities including George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton
- 1791 was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1816-1836 served as the president of the AAAS, where he did not get along with the students
- they left and founded the National Academy of Design, AAAS closed in 1839
- interred at Yale, his birthplace is a National Historic Landmark, his painting of Alexander Hamilton's face is on the \$10 bill

Gilbert Stuart

John Neagle

John Vandelyn

Thomas Sully

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- colonial artists: Smibert, Blackburn, Hesselis mostly British artists
- federal artists: John Copley, Charles Peale, Benjamin West American-born artists

- Copley was very talented, while he started out as an American artist, when the war broke out he went to England because his family had loyalist connections
- · his family was in danger, a mod came to his house
- in Britain he painted British history in order to get by and fit in
- The Death of Major Pierson big painting of British history shows the British winning against the French
- very colorful painting



Figure 4: The Death of Major Pearson - John Copley

- he was a hard working artist, until his death in London
- he started out as a colonial artist, became a federal artist
- Peale was also an important artist, painted his own museum etc.
- he painted George Washington, but the first painting was not accepted because it was not what the new country wanted in a hero even though it was probably accurate
- the portrait was not accepted even thought it was a good portrait, it was not statesman-like enough
- Benjamin West was a colonial artist, found a donor and went to Europe to study art there
- he becomes famous for his art in Britain and becomes the President of the Royal Academy as an American-born artist
- he never forgot where he came from though, he helped out many other American artists like Trumbull etc.
- looking at a picture by West of a peace treaty, we commented on it here
- a nice amount of plagiarism in the answers here, people just copy shit
- as it turns out, there is no text of the treaty, there are no real records of the meeting we only know that the painting was commissioned by the son of the founder of Pennsylvania, who had certain motives when he commissioned the painting
- it might have been an example of peaceful resolution, but that is not certain
- maybe the dress of the settlers is more conservative and maybe a symbol of more sophistication the clothing might not be appropriate for the time, so that may show bias against the natives when the Europeans are portrayed as civilized and the natives are not
- the acquisition of land was not violent, but it was by deception and not fair

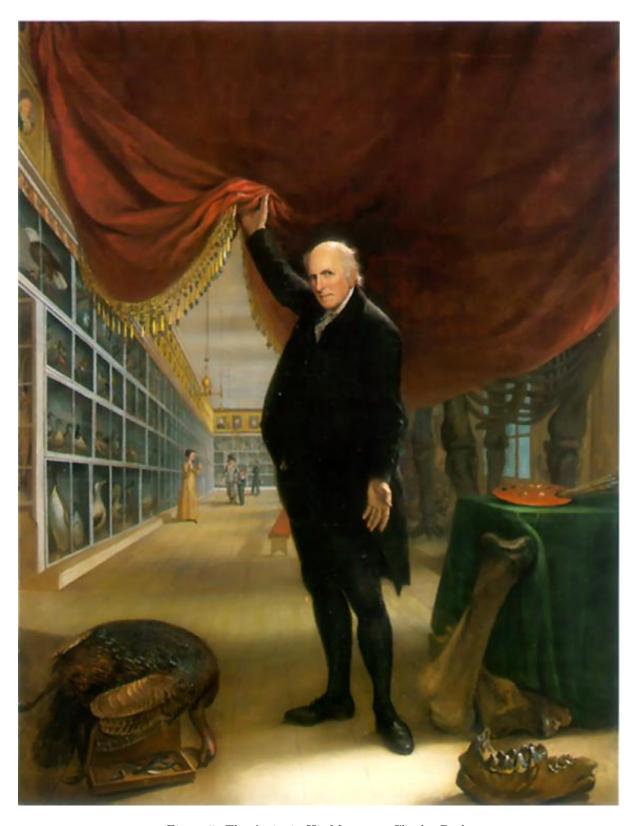


Figure 5: The Artist in His Museum - Charles Peale

• Assignments: the 4 writing assignments from e-course