

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

Lecture 21.01.2020 – Early Federal Period

- 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 mob 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 though 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