

## Lecture notes 14.01.2020

- art and we are stimulated by things
- we have to be stimulated – so does art
- art also needs stability because people need to appreciate it
- when there is instability, nobody cares about art
- e-course enrolment key: Hopper
- American Art is different from European Art
- the book is very good **find pdf**
- we will not be looking at all of American art, but the book is still a good book to read

### Intro

- map of the colonial US shows that most of the land was claimed by France and Spain and not the US initially (1776)
- there was no/almost not art in the original 13 Colonies

### Art in Colonial America

- merchants had the leading role, educated themselves and the like
- colonists were well read in general, also read popular literature
- in the spirit of enlightenment public libraries were created and many universities founded
- the driving force of those original 13 Colonies were the merchants
- there was nothing in the colonies themselves, so someone had to bring the products into the country – this gave them their power
- at the beginning the merchants were the only ones buying art – they only wanted portraits of themselves to represent themselves
- America did not have any artists, so they imported ones from the old world – they did not get the best artists
- *John Smibert - The Bermuda Group* is a good painting, but it lacks character and identity, all the characters look the same
- Smibert was the one to open the first museum in America, in Boston
- he introduced that art and also sold art supplies etc.
- *Gustavus Hesselius - Lapowinska* is a painting of a Native American Chief (Delaware Tribe) which is unusual for the time
- they were also portrayed with emotions and real faces, showing how tired they were
- this particular chief is the one that sold Pennsylvania, he looks tired