

Demuth 101

Saturdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Demuth Program Center - 116 E. King Street

Course Overview

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to Charles Demuth - his life and his artwork. We will begin with Demuth's roots and early life in Lancaster, and follow his travels as he moved through the Modern Art world - forging famous friendships and pioneering the Precisionism movement. We will take an in depth look at examples of Demuth's artwork and discuss how it fits within the scope of American Modernism and the impact he had on art history.

Course Objectives

Gain a better understanding of who Charles Demuth was
Explore the themes of American Modern art
Examine Demuth's artwork and place it within the context of 20th century art history

Core texts

These publications cover much of the information presented in this course. Relevant excerpts will be provided, but course participants are welcome to purchase their own copies if they wish. Additional suggested reading is listed under each week's outline below.

Charles Demuth: The Demuth Museum Collection, 2018

Charles Demuth and Friends, 2003

Letters of Charles Demuth, American Artist, 1883-1935, 2000

Assignments

Some out of class work is expected between sessions and assignments are listed in the course outline. These activities should be able to be completed in less than 1 hour at home. No written assignments will be collected, but rather participants should be prepared to share and discuss as a group.

Course instructors

This course is designed by the Demuth Foundation to further understanding and appreciation of Charles Demuth and his work. Co-teachers are **Abby Baer**, Executive Director, and **Greta Rymar**, Exhibitions & Collections Coordinator. Combined they have over 10 years of experience working at the Foundation and studying Demuth. Artist and educator **Susan Gottlieb** will serve as a guest lecturer for week 3.

Instructors may be reached via email.

Abby Baer- abaer@demuth.org

Greta Rymar- grymar@demuth.org

Date	Topics
<p>Week 1 October 14</p>	<p>Who was Charles Demuth? <i>Family history, childhood, student life, travels, diabetes and disability, peers and influences</i></p> <p><u>Assignment for 10/21:</u> Choose one work from the Demuth Museum collection. Be prepared to discuss what you see in the work and why you like it.</p> <p><u>Optional further reading:</u> Demuth's 1770 the History of a Lancaster Tradition, 1925 Smoke and Souvenirs: The Essence of Charles Demuth Alfred Stieglitz (1864–1946) and His Circle The Stieglitz Circle — icons of American Modernism</p>
<p>Week 2 October 21</p>	<p>Charles Demuth's Artwork <i>Explore subject matter and techniques Charles Demuth employed through exploration of the Demuth Museum Collection</i></p> <p><u>Assignment for 10/28:</u> Select a work by an artist that influenced Demuth or a work by one of his contemporaries. Come ready to compare and contrast Demuth's work with the piece you selected.</p> <p><u>Optional further reading:</u> American Modernism: Highlights From The Philadelphia Museum Of Art</p>
<p>Week 3 October 28</p>	<p>Charles Demuth and American Modernism <i>So What is the Big Deal about Modern Art: And what makes it Modern?</i> Modernism had fluid edges. Let's talk about what led up to Modernism, what it is, and how the public is only catching up to it now.</p> <p><u>Optional further activities:</u> Attend one of the Demuth Walking Tours Participate in Demuth watercolor workshop Sign up to volunteer at Demuth Museum</p>