



ART 170: Art Appreciation

MSUM Fall 2026

Monday/Wednesday 10:00-11:10am

Professor Noni Brynjolson

Office hours: Drop-in office hours Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm; by appointment

Mondays 9:00am-10:00am, Tuesdays 2:00-5:00pm, Wednesdays

9:00am-12:00pm. Zoom office hours available upon request.

CA 201E

Today:

- Course introduction
- Icebreaker
- Review Syllabus

Why take this course?

- Looking at art helps to develop critical thinking skills
- Art connects us with each other and promotes shared experiences
- Art teaches us to become more aware of the act of looking and perceiving the world around us

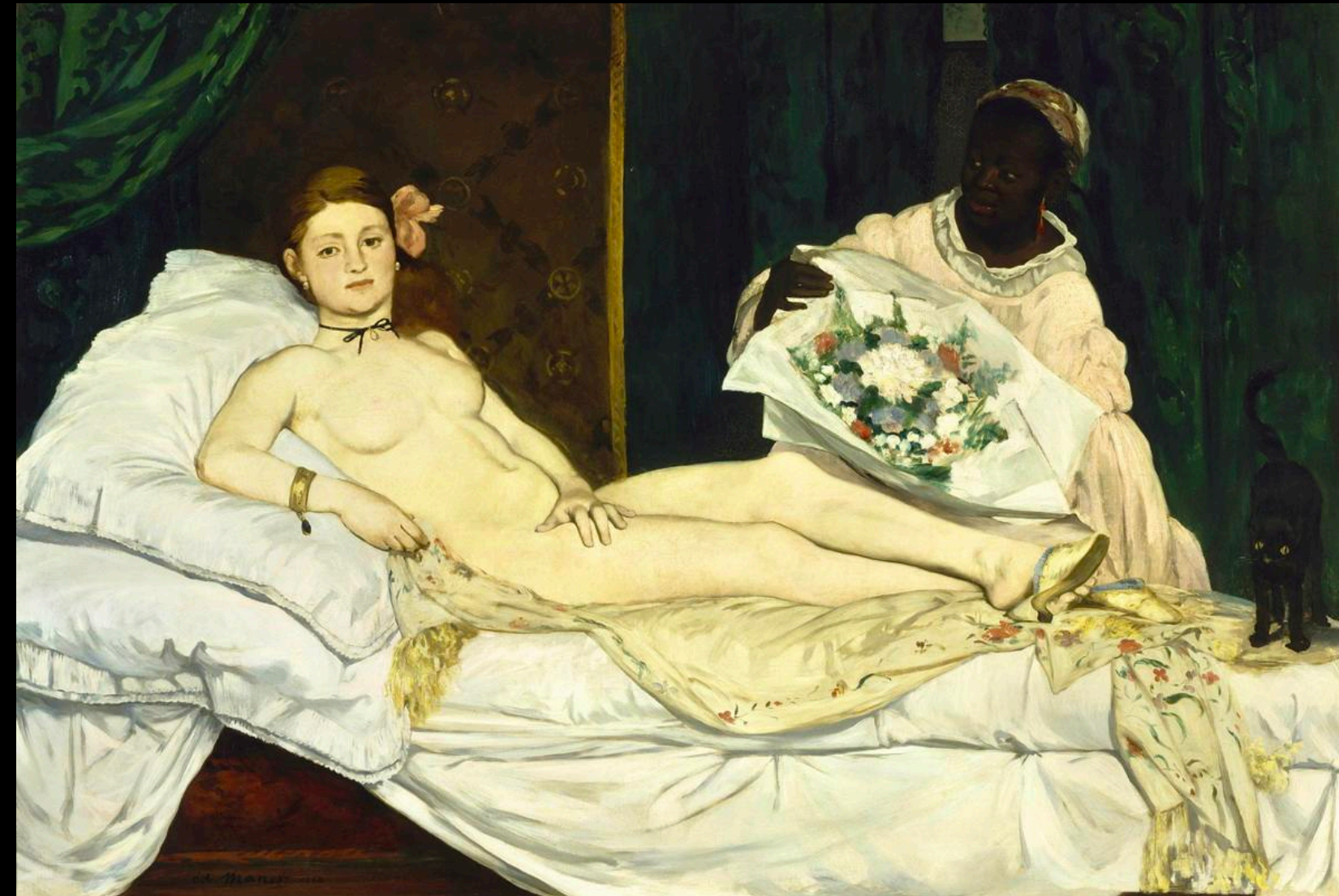
Seven steps to thinking critically about art:

- 1) Identify the artist's decisions and choices
- 2) Ask questions. Be curious
- 3) Describe the object
- 4) Question your assumptions
- 5) Avoid an emotional response
- 6) Don't oversimplify or misrepresent the art object
- 7) Tolerate uncertainty





Nkisi figure, Kongo, Zaire,
19th century



Edouard Manet, *Olympia*, 1863



Cai Guo-Qiang, *Project to Extend the
Great Wall of China by 10,000 meters;
Project for Extraterrestrials No. 10*, realized
in the Gobi Desert, February 27, 1993,
7:35 pm.

PART I – THE VISUAL WORLD: UNDERSTANDING THE ART YOU SEE

1. Discovering a World of Art
2. Developing Visual Literacy

PART II – THE FORMAL ELEMENTS AND THEIR DESIGN: DESCRIBING THE ART YOU SEE

3. Line
4. Shape and Space
5. Light and Color
6. Texture, Time, and Motion
7. The Principles of Design

PART III – THE FINE ARTS MEDIA: LEARNING HOW ART IS MADE

8. Drawing
9. Painting
10. Printmaking
11. Photography and Time-Based Media
12. Sculpture
13. The Craft Media
14. Architecture
15. The Design Profession
16. Digital Media

PART IV – THE VISUAL RECORD: PLACING THE ARTS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

17. The Ancient World
18. The Age of Faith
19. The Renaissance through the Baroque
20. The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
21. From 1900 to the Present

PART V – THE THEMES OF ART: SEEING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE OVER TIME

22. Spiritual Belief
23. The Life Force
24. The Body, Gender, and Identity
25. The Individual and Cultural Identity
26. Power
27. Science, Industry, and the Environment

Questions for you (write in the chat):

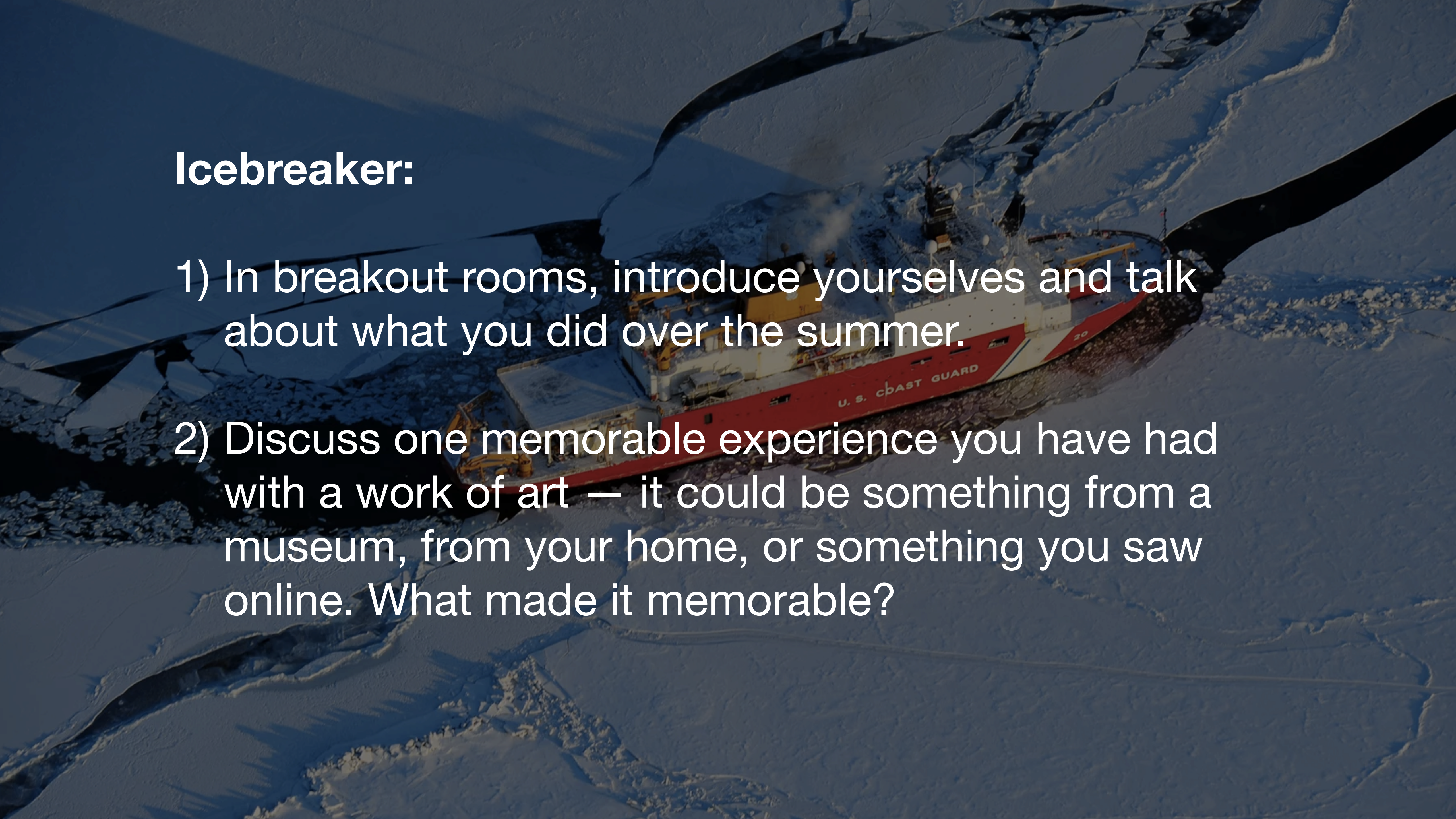
- What is your major?
- Who are some of your favorite artists?
- What are you hoping to learn about in this course?

Zoom Reactions:

Freshman, sophomore, junior, senior?

What makes a synchronous
Zoom course successful?

Zoom Poll

A large red and white U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker ship is shown from an aerial perspective, navigating through a dense field of sea ice. The ship's hull is red with "U. S. COAST GUARD" and the number "20" visible. The ice consists of numerous small, broken floes. The background is a vast expanse of white ice under a pale sky.

Icebreaker:

- 1) In breakout rooms, introduce yourselves and talk about what you did over the summer.
- 2) Discuss one memorable experience you have had with a work of art — it could be something from a museum, from your home, or something you saw online. What made it memorable?



Summer 2026!



Syllabus

Exit ticket poll

Wednesday:

- Read Chapter 1