

August 20

Art Nouveau: 1890–1914

This is an exploration of the ideas and visions that defined the Art Nouveau movement primarily featuring objects from a major exhibition held at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Well-known designers such as Lalique, Tiffany, and Guimard are featured along with an array of outstanding examples of the style (some from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts). Rare archival movie footage of the era is shown as well as some of the most important architectural landmarks including those designed by Victor Horta, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and Louis Sullivan.

30 min, 2000 - High school through adult

Lillian Thomas Pratt's Fabergé: Shopping, Collecting, Remembering

The royal families of Russia's last imperial rulers lived in a world of fabulous delights. Court jewelers to the Czars, the master craftsmen of Peter Carl Fabergé created fantastic objects in gold, silver, rock crystal, and gemstones. This intimate documentary unveils the world-renowned Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Fabergé at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts as it has never been seen before. Through the perseverance of Lillian Thomas Pratt, a passionate collector not born to wealth, a world-class collection of Russian imperial jewels was acquired during the 1930s and '40s. In this video, family members, friends, and curator David Park Curry recalls both collector and collection, while stunning photographic close-ups of dazzling Fabergé objects reveal exquisite details usually seen only by museum curators and conservators.

30 min, color, 1996 - High school through adult

September 17

The Art of Quilting

Previously identified with an older folk culture of this country, quilts now are creatively made by contemporary artists and hang in galleries. Divided in three segments, this video highlights Quilt National, the premier exhibition of quilts today. Then it focuses on the Chicago School of Fusing and then visits Art Quilts of Philadelphia, a biennial showing. Myriads of techniques are revealed as well as artists at work.

60 min, 2007 - High school through adult

October 22

Raku Ceramics

Raku ceramics is a craft rooted in 16th-century Japan. But it has emerged in America as a vivacious and thoroughly contemporary art form. As practiced in the West today, raku invites experimentation; yet, by its very nature, it has preserved much of its old philosophical content. Assuming the viewer has some basic pottery experience, the video introduces a new world of technique and artistry: hand building the clay, slab construction, slip painting, wheel throwing, manipulating the shapes, glazing, kiln firing, and smoking. This age-old process is revitalized as artists discover its versatility.

75 min, color, 1990 - Middle school through adult

November 19

Ansel Adams

This Ric Burns documentary is the intimate portrait of a revolutionary photographer who not only pioneered photographic technique but also crusaded for the environment. His stunning photos in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains mean to capture what he called "the continuous beauty of the things that are". Few American artists have reached a wider audience nor equaled Adams' ability to grasp the majesty of our continent.

100 min, 2002 - Middle school through adult

December 17

Stained Glass

There is a moment when sunlight shines through the rose windows at France's Chartres Cathedral that is breathtaking. Viewers share this exciting experience and learn how medieval artisans created these glass wonders. In a modern stained glass studio, traditional techniques are demonstrated, and there is a discussion of how glass is made. Suggestions for simulating stained glass in the classroom are given for the beginning artisan. 15 min, color, 1993 - Elementary school through adult

Three English Cathedrals: Norwich, Lincoln, Wells

This fascinating video visits 3 spectacular English cathedrals representing a range of architectural styles. Norwich, among the best-preserved of the cathedrals built after the Norman Conquest in 1066, was intended to impose the conquerors' powerful presence on the Saxons. The amazingly open and delicate, yet complex, Lincoln Cathedral features the first use of spreading ribs in the vaults, an invention that eventually would spread throughout England. The facade of Wells includes the richest sculpture in the country, and its Bishop's Palace, Vicars Close, Chapter House, and unusual scissors arches in the nave make this cathedral one of the best-loved in England. Educational and evocative, Three English Cathedrals is a wonderful architectural experience. 45 min, color, 1995 - Middle school through adult

If you know me, you know who helped pick these particular films out to add to the list for this year. ;-)

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