



## Unit 4

### Themes and Historical Context

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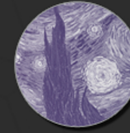
*Introduced by Mary Fournier, Instructor, School of Art and Art History*

Welcome to this unit, themes and historical context. I'm Doctor Mary Fournier. I'm a lecturer in the school of Art and Art History here at USF's College of the Arts.

I'm introducing this unit, which relates to the history context, the global historical context in which art is made, and in which art is viewed. Increasingly art historians and contemporary art critics and other scholars of art have been interested in questions about the historical context in which art is made. And art is made certainly within its own traditions. But it's constantly in dialogue with other traditions.

The emphasis now at USF and the general education curriculum and in especially contemporary art practice and in scholarship today is the way in which art interfaces with a global dimension. That global dimension has accelerated increasingly with each advancing year and makes this particular unit essential and very relevant. You'll notice that each of the videos within this unit touch in some degree to that historical context with global perspectives as being the primary emphasis.

My hope for you when you watch these videos is that you come away with a sense of your own critical point of view with respect global art. Global art is done in a multitude of settings for many viewers and from different contexts. And that diversity and appreciating that diversity is absolutely essential to your role as a student. This means you've got to do some work.



You've got to understand works of art from their historical context. You've got to do a little bit of studying, thinking deeply, and in the sense research too and reading about what individuals in their own respective cultures thought, interpreted, and saw in and through those works of art. How their own identities were constructed. How they saw and reflected their own worlds and your relationship to that, as a 21<sup>st</sup> century viewer is to understand it from that perspective.