

April 13, 2020

Hello Memory Café friends,

We hope this finds you healthy and coping with the Safer At Home order. This has been a challenging time for everyone. We want to brighten your day with some fun and interesting things you can do at home. We miss you and look forward to opening our Café doors again soon. Until then, how about a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) in New York?

When we met at the library this past January we talked a lot about our favorite museums. It seemed like everyone enjoys going to museums and we didn't want a pandemic to keep us from too many of the things we enjoy, especially when we can still experience them from the safety of our own home. We are sharing this information with the other Memory Cafés in the area. I apologize in advance if you receive the same information from another Memory Café program. Back to our virtual trip!

First, some interesting facts about The Met:

Did you know...

- The Met was founded in 1870.
- Its doors first opened in the Dodworth Building at 681 Fifth Avenue before moving to its current location at 5th Avenue and 82nd Street in 1880.
- The current facade of The Met (facing 5th Avenue) and Great Hall opened in 1902.
- The Met was the first public institution in the world to acquire a work of art from Henri Matisse in 1910.
- The collection contains over 26,000 pieces of ancient Egyptian artifacts, the largest collection outside of Cairo.
- The permanent collection has over 2 million pieces representing over 5,000 years of art.
- The Met is the largest art museum in the United States boasting 2 million square feet.
- It is the third most visited museum in the world with an estimated 6.48 million visitors in 2019.
- Its mission statement is "The Metropolitan Museum of Art collects, studies, conserves, and presents significant works of art across all times and cultures in order to connect people to creativity, knowledge, and ideas."

Who wants to go to The Met today? Yes, you can! Here is a link to [The Met 360° Project](#). You will find 6 different virtual tours: Great Hall, The Met Cloisters, The Temple of Dendur, The Met Breuer, The Charles Engelhard Court, and Arms & Armor Galleries. Each tour is under 3 minutes and can be viewed on any device. You begin the tour by clicking on the play button in the center of the tour. If you also click on the

YouTube icon in the lower right corner (this will appear *after* you click on play) you will be redirect to YouTube and in the lower right corner of the video click on  to expand to full screen mode. Regardless of which mode you choose, you will see a circle with four arrows in the upper left corner. You can click on any of the arrows to change the view of the tour. This provides you with an opportunity to take the tour multiple times looking at everything to your right, left or even the ceiling getting a different view each time.

For a more in depth view of The Met, I highly recommend viewing [Great Museums' A World of Art: The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#). Click on the title and you will be taken to a 50 minute video about the history, architecture, and exhibits of The Met along with interviews from curators.

Have fun visiting The Met! After your visit think about answering these questions:

What did you like the best? The statues? The paintings? The artifacts? The history?
Do you have a favorite type of art? If so, what is it?
Are you artistic? What kind of art do you like to make? Drawing? Painting? Flower arranging?
Have you ever been to The Met? Have you been to other art museums?

Stay healthy and we hope to see you soon!

From your friends at the Library Memory Project.