



Adventures in Looking 2: Inside the Cleveland Public Library Main Branch

Inside the Cleveland Public Library Main Branch
325 Superior Avenue

The Cleveland Public Library and its more than two dozen branches have more art from this region in them than any other buildings in the city. The Main buildings are wonderful to get to know for all of the resources that they hold. The first one, built in 1925 has recently been totally renovated. The new Louis Stokes wing (1999) represents an ongoing expansion of their holdings in books and other printed materials and electronic information. This library is an American Treasure. Adventures in Looking II is about looking at the collection of art in this building.

Preparation: Know the difference between a painting, mural, print and photograph.



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Go to the main reading room in the 1925 building.

Find out the names of two of the artists who painted the murals on the walls. Two have similar colors and were painted about 50 years apart.



1. *The City in 1833* is by



2. *Sommer's Sun* is by



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Why do you think one mural is called Sommer Sun?

Describe the works on the other two walls.

1. Night Sky

2. Public Square

Now go to the fourth floor. On the way, look at the ceilings, the lamps, and the elevator doors.

Find something made of bronze.

Find the globe made by the school children of Cleveland.

What materials were used?

On the second floor find the mural Early Transportation in Cleveland.

What kinds of river and lakefront activities do you see?

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Go to the John G. White Collection.

Ask someone about WPA prints. When was WPA?



What subjects interested these artists?

Name some of the artists whose work you are shown.

When did these artists live?

What are prints?

How are prints made?



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Go to the basement and cross over to the Louis Stokes Wing of the building completed in 1999.

Find the photograph collections on the fourth floor.

Ask to see the Margaret Bourke-White photographs. Stay long enough to look at three and look at one of the books on her work.

What were her subjects?

Find the specially painted ceilings on the fifth and sixth floors. Describe the subject matter of each. Know the artists' names.

Fifth Floor Ceiling.

Describe

Artist's Name

Sixth Floor Ceiling.

Describe

Artist/s Name



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What is your favorite work of art in the library?

Why?

Behind the Library

There is a stature of Abraham Lincoln behind the Cleveland Board of Education building. Look carefully because it was made 70 years ago and now looks new because it was cleaned and restored. What is involved in cleaning a public sculpture piece?

[see Sculpture Center website www.sculpturecenter.org]

