## The Story of Art – A Concise Version (2014)

I've never had a proper academic education on the history of art. Recently I decided I wouldn't be ashamed of this anymore and even to use it as an “advantage”. Revealing my nearly total lack of knowledge about the history of art, I have dedicated a work to each chapter of “The Story of Art” by E. H. Gombrich.

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Strange Beginnings</td>
<td>Prehistoric and primitive peoples; ancient America</td>
<td>Cave Painting HD video, sound, 6:37 min, looped Based on a drawing of a bison in Altamira cave.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Art for Eternity</td>
<td>Egypt, Mesopotamia, Crete</td>
<td>Anubis watercolour pencils on papyrus, 30 x 20 cm</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>The Great Awakening</td>
<td>Greece, VII to V century BC</td>
<td>Hero (or Athlete), V century BC black inflatable nylon air dancer with blower “The new-found freedom to represent the human body in any position or movement could be used to reflect the inner life of the figures represented.”</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The Realm of Beauty</td>
<td>Greece and the Greek world, IV century BC to I century AD</td>
<td>Venus of Milo acrylic on plaster cast, bought at the “Women’s market” in Sofia, 95 x 24 x 21 cm</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>World Conquerors</td>
<td>Romans, Buddhists, Jews and Christians, I to IV century AD</td>
<td>A Keystone styrofoam, plywood, book, 240 x 132 x 40 cm</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Looking Eastwards</td>
<td>Islam, China, II to XIII century</td>
<td>Landscape After Rain – To Be Looked At in Case of Meditation Only black ink on paper, 5 x 25 x 5 cm</td>
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<td>8.</td>
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<td>The Church Triumphant</td>
<td>XIII century</td>
<td>Mourning Triumphs ten colour photographs, wooden stand 79 x 110 x 48 cm Based on “The Mourning of Christ” fresco by Giotto, c. 1305, Capella dell’Arena, Padua.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Courtiers and Burghers</td>
<td>XIV century</td>
<td>Studies of “Studies of a Monkey” by Antonio Pisanello black ink on paper, 21.5 x 14 cm</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>The Conquest of Reality</td>
<td>The early XV century</td>
<td>Il Duomo di Firenze’s Dome in 1:100 scale colour photograph, 75.47 x 71.67 cm</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Tradition and Innovation I</td>
<td>The later XV century in Italy</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Tradition and Innovation II</td>
<td>The XV century in the North</td>
<td>Innovating the Traditional two audio recordings, 2:06 min and 2:14 min I asked two people from southern and northern Bulgaria to read excerpts from the chapters in their own dialect.</td>
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</table>
15. Harmony Attained  
*Tuscany and Rome, early XVI century*

**Harmony Reenactments**  
three plastic Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures, approx. 15 cm each

16. Light and Colour  
*Venice and northern Italy, early XVI century*

**Light and Colour, and a Fish Tank, and a Mirror**  
fish tank with water, mirror, 20W LED light, colour spectrum on wall, dimensions variable

17. The New Learning Spreads  
*Germany and the Netherlands, early XVI century*

**Dürer’s Bumper Cars**  
five nano bugs, cuttings from facsimiles of Dürer’s woodblock prints, metal container, metal mesh 4 x 32 x 35 cm

18. A Crisis of Art  
*Europe, later XVI century*

**A Crisis of Art**  
HD Video, sound, 04:31 min, looped

I asked my father (an artist from the XX to XXI centuries) how Bruegel overcame the crisis of art at the end of the XVI century and how he (my father) received inspiration from Bruegel (his favourite artist) to overcome the XXI century financial crisis.

19. Vision and Visions  
*Catholic Europe, first half of the XVII century*

**Picturesque**  
colour photograph, 87.89 x 121.05 cm  
(average dimensions, based on ten of the most famous paintings by Claude Lorrain)

20. The Mirror of Nature  
*Holland, XVII century*

**Self-portrait of a 26-year-old Me, Reenacting a Self-portrait of a 25-Year-old Rembrandt**  
colour photograph, 63.5 x 47 cm

21. Power and Glory I  
*Italy, later XVII and XVIII centuries*

**Cleopatra’s Cocktail**  
crystal glass, pearl, vinegar

Based on Giovanni Battista Tiepolo’s fresco “The Banquet of Cleopatra”, c. 1750, Palazzo Labia, Venice.

22. Power and Glory II  
*France, Germany and Austria, late XVII and early XVIII centuries*

23. The Age of Reason  
*England and France, XVII century*

24. The Break In Tradition  
*England, America and France, late XVII and early XIX centuries*

**125 Seconds Out of Many More**  
HD video, sound, 2:42 min, looped

Doing field work for 125 seconds (the duration in years between the start of the construction of the Palace of Versailles and the beginning of the French Revolution).

25. Permanent Revolution  
*The XIX century*

**A Badly Made, Kitsch Replica of a Famous Impressionist’s Lily Pond**  
colour photograph, 66.04 x 104.14 cm

Based on “Nympheas” (1897-1898) by Claude Monet.

26. In Search of New Standards  
*The late XIX century*

**Seurat’s Dot**  
computer-generated photo mosaic, 200 x 200 cm

27. Experimental Art  
*The first half of the XX century*

**An Eclectic Drawing**  
colour pencils and black ink on paper, 18 x 24 cm

*The quotations are from “The Story of Art” by E. H. Gombrich, L., 2008*