



Museum Access: The Phillips Collection

SEASON 2 - EPISODE 10

The Phillips Collection in Washington D.C. is known as America's 1st Museum of Modern Art. Once a family home, the galleries reflect the style of this stunning 1897 Georgian Revival. The diverse collection amassed by Duncan Phillips includes the 'Migration Series' by New York artist Jacob Lawrence. Let's continue the learning with these questions and talking points.

Question 1

How did Duncan Phillips develop his eye for collecting?

More Talking Points:

1. Why did Duncan Phillips finally decide to leave his family home?
2. What makes the Phillips Collection setting so unique as a museum?

Question 2

Why did Duncan Phillips insist on displaying American and European works together?

More Talking Points:

1. Why was this considered unusual?
2. Why do many museums separate American and European works of art?

Question 3

How are works of art displayed in the original building?

More Talking Points:

1. What is the reasoning behind this?
2. How does this approach add to the visitor's experience?

Question 4

Jacob Lawrence created a series of panels depicting the African American migration from the rural South to the urban North following the outbreak of WWI. Why was this such an important project for Lawrence?

More Talking Points:

1. How did the concept of the series actually come to life?
2. Why do you think this was such an important project at the time?

Question 5

What drove the African American migration?

More Talking Points:

1. How do you think this migration impacted American history?
2. Do you think those who migrated found what they were looking for? Why or why not?

