

A DAY AT THE MET

**ANN CRAVEN
AND AMY GRANAT**

Late afternoon, April 11, 2008, New York City. We head downtown from Ann's 5th Ave. studio in Harlem to check out the Courbet show before it closes. 4:45. We're afraid we're going to miss it. We call, find out it's open till 9:00.

From the car: (AMY, ANN, JACOB)

QUOTE MISSED TURN

ANN: Jacob . . . um . . . where you going?

JACOB: Going to the Met.

ANN: You just took a right, you gotta turn around.

AMY: Ooooh, look at the dog.

ANN: Take a left, go back on 5th Ave. you gotta get away from this traffic.

JACOB: I don't think I can.

AMY: Yeah . . . Go now! Gogogo!

JACOB: Okay, here I go.

ANN & AMY: Yay.

ANN: Okay, we're back on 5th Ave., it's only a few blocks.

AMY: Oh, look at that cute dog.

We get to the museum, on our way to the Courbet we're sidetracked by etchings, photos and flowers:

QUOTE FLOWER COLORS

[Just parked the car. Walking towards the Met.]

ANN: Look at the flowers.

AMY: . . . oh, but they're gonna get cold.

ANN: They're gorgeous.

AMY: Yellow.

ANN: Look at this intense orange.

AMY: They're gonna die.

ANN: No, no. They're fine. They're really strong. They're just gonna live their life.

AMY: HI-cup!

ANN: Oh, you got the Hiccups.

AMY: Look at that bug.

QUOTE ETCHINGS

AMY: This one's from 1548.

ANN: They used to cut them around the edge.

AMY: Look at the muscles.

ANN: I know. My god.

ANN & AMY: Look at that . . . [chuckle noises] Yeahh.

AMY: Woow, oh. Oh. That's an intense ass.

ANN: That's a really nice ass.

QUOTE PHOTO

ANN: Countess de Castiglione, created a sensation when she . . . [muffled, reading aloud fast]

AMY: It's a photo from 1930. It's beautiful.

ANN: She was sent over, to win Napoleon over from the Italian Unity. And within months she was his mistress.

Finally we get to the Courbet exhibition. Notice the 2 women (see photo), the brushstrokes, wall color, deer, light, waves, fish.

QUOTE WAVES BRUSHSTROKE AND COLOR OF WALL

AMY: Look at that picture.

ANN: Does it seem to be persisting?

AMY: Hello. Thank you.

ANN: Look at that picture.

AMY: Good.

ANN: Good.

AMY: Where are we now?

ANN: Look at that picture.

AMY: Good.

ANN: He would paint these naked women for wealthy clients who would show them behind curtains in their collections. And the woman in the waves is so amazing. The brushstroke started to be tougher in that painting . . .

AMY: [goes and looks at the peepshow box]

ANN: This room is filled with all ocean waves and rocks and nature, and there is not even a boat to be seen.

AMY: Oh, there's a boat.

QUOTE DEER AND WALL OF SNOW

ANN: Okay. You've got to come see my favorite painting of all time.

AMY: Okay, let's go.

ANN: There it is. Two deers. Jumping over a big bush in the snow. It's like he sponged it on. Dvvvoo-dvoojjj [hand gesturing]. They were just shot at and they're running from the hunter.

AMY: Drvvj ...

ANN: Dvvoojjj ...

AMY: Jjrrrr-choooo ...

ANN: [gestures the shot] Choojchooo. I just think the brushstrokes are amazing ... so glad they got away.

AMY: It's all about surface.

ANN: Yeah, he really cared about that [Ann takes photo].

GUARD: Ma'am. You can't have a camera in here.

ANN: It's my heart monitor.

GUARD: Put the camera away.

AMY: Yes, thank you. We will.

ANN & AMY notice these two really cool women who have brought their own chairs to the exhibit with them, set them up and sit down, then take out cardboard devices to shield the glare while looking up at the Courbet paintings.

AMY: Oh wow.

ANN: Look at that.

AMY: What a good idea.

ANN: That's going to be us one day.

QUOTE FISH

ANN: We have to see the fish painting.

AMY: ... oh, it's a trout.

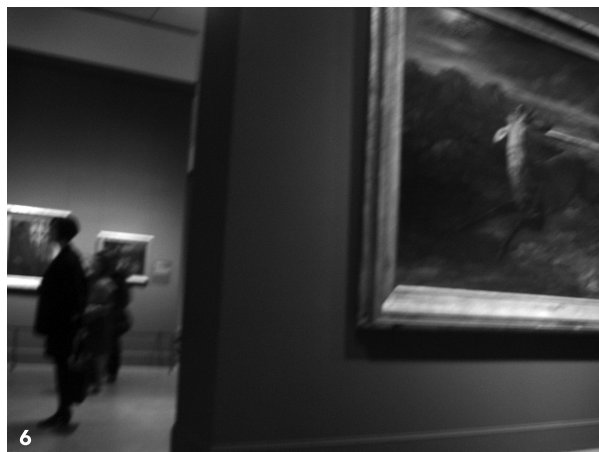
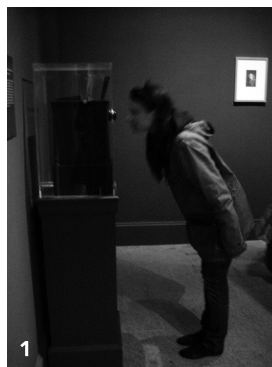
ANN: This is one of the last paintings he painted. He wrote at the bottom, *my life in chains*. He was so mad at people at this point. They were treating him so badly.

AMY: Yeah.

ANN: We should look close and see what it says.

ANN & AMY: [mumble-mumble]

The museum guards keep stopping us from taking photos. Just before 9 pm they start ushering everyone out. ❗



1 Amy. 2 Courbet Deer Wall. 3 Courbet Deer.
4 Ladies. 5 Ann Eye. 6 Courbet Corner.