



Reading Between The Lions

The Art Institute's Book Club

www.artic.edu/bookclub

DISCUSSION GUIDE

My Love Affair with Modern Art by Katharine Kuh

1. Do you like the title of the book? Does it accurately reflect the contents?
2. What do you think of Avis Berman's preface? How did it affect how you read the text that follows?
3. How does Kuh portray herself in the text? What is the difference between the way Berman presents Kuh and the way Kuh presents herself?
4. How would you describe Kuh's writing style? How much do you think is her voice, and how much is Berman's voice?
5. Is this book a memoir? What does Kuh want to be remembered for?
6. For whom is this book written?
7. Is Kuh more concerned with the art or the artists?
8. Which of the profiled artists did you like the best? Find the most interesting? Find the most sympathetic? Are there any artists whose work you would now like to look at again? Do Kuh's profiles change any of your opinions about these artists?
9. What common experiences, outlooks, and perspectives does Kuh identify in the artists she profiles? What does this say about her?
10. What most surprised you about the inner workings of the art world? Does it make you see the art in a different light? Does it change how you perceive museums or other cultural institutions?
11. What does Kuh think the role of the curator is? How does this book fit into that understanding? Do you think curators play the same role today, or do they work differently now?
12. What is the role of the critic in art history? What does Kuh believe the function of criticism to be?
13. Do you agree or disagree with Kuh's judgments about today's museums and her prescriptions to improve them?
14. What do you think Kuh was like to work with?