WITH AN ARTISTIC VISION:
Perception and the Arts
What is the relationship between beauty, art, and the human experience? Are Homo sapiens neurologically “hard-wired” to perceive beauty? The field of neuroaesthetics is blossoming, with foundational principles that correlate Beauty and the Brain. Several fascinating sidebars at the intersection of perception and the arts will be explored. An overview of visual archetypes in the history of art will be followed by an examination of the artistic oeuvre of Monet, DeGas, van Gogh, El Greco, Goya and O'Keefe, positing the question: Is eye disease an obstacle, or is it an opportunity, for artists fully to manifest their genius? Music is a foundational aspect of beauty and is an essential part of all cultures. What are the evolutionary adaptive mechanisms for it? Where does music go in the brain? How is music neurologically related to beauty and pleasure? What are the synesthesias? What is the Mozart “effect”? Can music increase cognition? Can music heal?

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