

Cloisters

Cloisters of New York City



Photography by Joseph R. Votano
November 2013

Introduction

I always enjoy a visit to the Cloisters Museum situated on a hill overlooking the Hudson River near the tip of Manhattan. I usually take the M4 bus from Madison Avenue which drops you right at the door step to the Cloisters. They run about every 1/2 hour during the week. It's about a 90 minute bus ride from 38th Street to the Cloisters but it goes fast if you like watching people with camera in hand.

Briefly, the cloisters come from five French abbeys, deconstructed and shipped here brick by brick between 1933 to 1938. The museum buildings were designed by Charles Collens. He designed New York's Riverside Church. John Rockefeller Jr provided grant money to purchase the 4 acres for the museum grounds and its adjacent park, Fort Tyron. Next, Rockefeller purchased George Grey Barnard's European medieval art collection. Barnard was both a sculptor and collector of medieval art, 12 to 15th century. Rockefeller combined Barnard's collection with his own which became the basis of the medieval art collection housed at the Cloisters. There over 5,000 art pieces and another 15,000 books that make up the collection.

It's a marvelous place to stroll, no matter what time of year. I especially like the summer when the garden is going full blast. Normally, it takes about 3 to 4 hours to take in all the art work, have cup of coffee, and leisurely photograph the wonderful architecture and hidden gems that one keeps running into. If you don't photograph, 2 to 3 hours is sufficient to view what's there. The statutes, the tapestries, paintings, and religious artifacts that abound, do take time to see.

In this little photo-document I have presented some of my favorite images of the Cloisters and items I always enjoy looking at when I visit. I never get tired of the architecture; I love stone work. The chapel at the Cloisters definitely fits the bill when it comes to stone work. If you look up as you walk around, there is a vaulted ceiling that is definitely old world.

Enjoy

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Plate 1

Cloisters

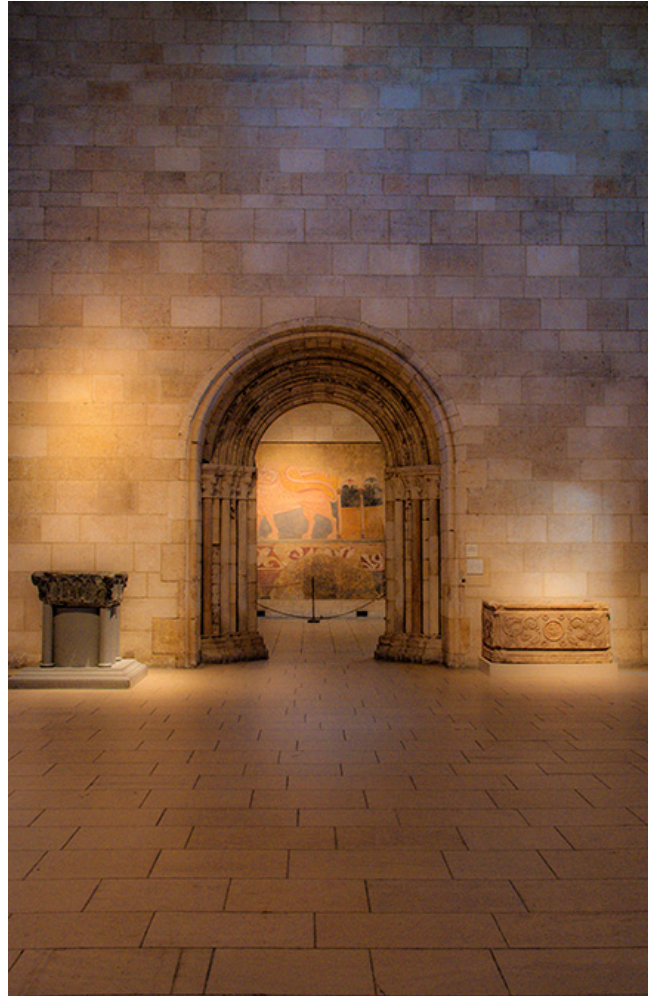


Plate 2

Cloisters



Plate 3

Cloisters



Plate 4



Plate 5

Cloisters



Plate 6



Cloisters



Plate 8



Plate 9



Plate 10

Cloisters



Plate 11



Plate 12