



Fun Facts About “Magic at the Museum”

Somerset House is a beautiful building in London that overlooks the Thames River.

All the paintings in the book are real paintings in the Courtauld Gallery, which is in Somerset House.

Alexandre was Cézanne’s gardener. There is one more painting of him in the Courtauld Gallery where he is playing cards with another man.

Elizabeth was between 4 and 6 years old when her portrait was painted.

Coral was an ancient symbol of youth, and was believed to protect children.

The Albertinelli “Creation” shows 4 episodes of the Creation story. In the far left God creates the animals (a white horse); then God creates Adam; God creates Eve out of Adam’s rib; and Eve finds the apple in the tree. It is like a comic-strip bible story.

Parmigianino painted the “Virgin” with an extraordinarily long neck. He almost always painted Mary with a very long and graceful neck.

The barmaid in “The Bar at the Folies-Bergère” may have been named Suzon.

Are the two ballerinas in Degas’s “Two dancers on the stage” rehearsing or actually performing? What is the ballerina in the top left hand corner doing?

A torchere is a tall floor lamp. So, the two lampmen statues were actually designed to be tall lamps in a German palace.

The pattern behind Anne and Elizabeth in the close-up painting is based on an antique Italian paper pattern from Florence.

I couldn’t get onto the roof of Somerset House to draw the clock close-up. Instead, I found an antique photograph in the Courtauld library.

There is one painting on the “Ding-Dong” page that I invented myself? Can you guess which one? (the coloured squares)

Anne is modeled after the young girl in the movie “One Fine Day”.