

History of Modern Art

**ART 3302
HUM 3324**

**Susan J. Baker
©2009**

Jacques-Louis David and the Classical Tradition

List 8 stylistic characteristics often described as “classical”.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

David's *Oath of the Horatii*, 1784

Who was David's *patron* for this piece? What is ironic about his patronage?

What was David's source for the *Horatii* story?

What is the story of the Horatii? Who were the Curattii?

List seven specific aspects of the *Oath of the Horatii* that may be considered “classical”? Explain each.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What role did David have during the French Revolution?

Is David's art politically motivated? Cite evidence.

What is the difference between David's art and political art of the past?

Is David's depiction of women in his paintings typical of the period? How does it compare to the work of Gros or Ingres?

What role do women play in the following works of art by David?

Oath of the Horatii:

Brutus Receiving the Bodies of His Sons:

Intervention of the Sabine Women:

Venus Disarming Mars:

Romanticism in Germany and England

Who were August Wilhelm and Friedrich Schlegel?

How did Schlegel define the romantic?

List 5 general characteristics of Romanticism and explain each.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In what specific ways are the following works of art typical of Romantic painting?

Caspar David Friedrich's *Cloister Graveyard in the Snow*, 1819 (German)

J.W.M. Turner's (English)

Burning of the Houses of Parliament, 1835

Romanticism in France

Who was Madame de Stael?

How does Romanticism in France differ from that found in Germany, England or the United States? Why?

Eugène Delacroix

Which specific aspects of Delacroix's *Death of Sardanapalus*, 1827, art remain classical?

Which specific characteristics of Delacroix's *Death of Sardanapalus* are important innovations that influence later artists, especially the Impressionists?

Realism

List 4 general characteristics of the Realist style:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Gustave Courbet

Funeral at Ornans, 1849

What is being depicted in this scene? How important would the event being depicted be to the average Frenchman?

Why were people shocked by the size of the painting when other French artists, such as David, had always depicted large canvases?

What about this painting caused critics to accuse Courbet of being a Socialist?

List at least six significant differences between Courbet's *Funeral at Ornans* and David's *Oath of the Horatii*.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

What was the *Exposition Universelle* of 1855? Did Courbet exhibit there? Explain the circumstances.

Did Courbet study the work of Old Masters? Explain.

What was Courbet's view on using pictorial formulas?

Explain how mid 19th-century Realism differs from naturalizing tendencies of the past by comparing it to the following works:

Vigee-LeBrun's *Self-Portrait*, 1784

Van Eyck's *Eve* from the Ghent Altarpiece (Northern Renaissance, 15th century)

Nadar, *Sarah Bernhardt*, 1864

Edouard Manet

What was the *Salon des Refusés* of 1863?

Who was Victorine Meurent?

List at least 4 classical rules that are broken in Manet's *Le Dejeuner sur l'herbe*, 1863?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Name two important visual precedents for Manet's *Le Dejeuner sur l'herbe*.

Why does Manet quote the paintings listed above?

Why does Manet call his other famous painting from 1863 "Olympia"?

List three famous paintings to which Manet's *Olympia* is referring.

Impressionism

List 5 general characteristics of Impressionist painting and explain each

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

How does Impressionist subject matter differ from Realist subject matter?

List two early 19th-century figures important to Impressionist color theory. Explain how each was important.

How does Japanese-style space created differently from that found in the West?

What is the importance for photography to Impressionist movement?

Describe the specific Impressionist characteristics in the following works of art:

Monet's *Impression, Sunrise*, 1872

Renoir's *At the Moulin de la Galette*, 1876

Cassatt's *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair*, 1878

How does Renoir's subject contrast with Monet's? Why?

What typical subjects are found in Cassatt's work? Why?

How does Cassatt challenge the notion of audience in her work? Explain.

What specific classical pictorial devices does Degas explore? How?

Post-Impressionism

In general, which aspects of Impressionist technique do the Post-Impressionists continue to use?

What concerns did the Post-Impressionists have about Impressionism?

How did the artists listed below further develop Impressionist innovations?

Seurat:

Pointillism

Divisionism

What were Seurat's theories regarding the emotional impact of line and color?

Cézanne

Regarding optics:

Regarding classical landscape formulas:

Van Gogh

What sort of ideas did Van Gogh discuss in his letters to Theo?

Gauguin

Synthetism:

Expressionism: Fauvism, Die Brücke, Der Blaue Reiter

List three common characteristics of Expressionist art:

1.

2.

3.

Fauvism

Which artists are considered Fauve? Where did these artists paint?

What differentiates Fauve color from Post-Impressionist color?

Which Post-Impressionist most influenced Matisse when he painted *Carmelina*, 1903-04?
How?

Which Post-Impressionist most influenced Matisse when he painted *Luxe, Calme, et Volupte*, 1904-05? How?

What changes are observed in Matisse's application of color over time?

What art influenced Matisse when he painted *Blue Nude*, 1907?

How did Matisse respond to critics who claimed the nude was ugly?

Who was the Post-Impressionist who had the greatest influence on Derain's work?
Explain.

Who was the Post-Impressionist who had the greatest influence on Vlaminck's work?
Explain.

Die Brücke

Which artists are associated with *Die Brücke*? Where were these artists painting?

What does the term *Die Brücke* mean literally? What were the goals of the group?

Describe the content of much of early *Die Brücke* art.

Which Post-Impressionist was important for Kirchner's *Street, Dresden, 1911*?

How is *Die Brücke* composition, color and technique different from Fauve art?

What medieval technique did the *Die Brücke* revive? Why?

What is unusual about the subject matter of Nolde's work?

Der Blaue Reiter

Which artists are associated with *Der Blaue Reiter*? Where did they paint?

To what does the term *Der Blaue Reiter* refer? Who coined the term?

List seven artistic or non-artistic sources for Kandinsky's work.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Why did Kandinsky write *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, 1912?

Describe and explain Kandinsky's model of culture.

Cubism

List six artistic influences on Picasso's early work.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Describe these influences in *Les demoiselles d'Avignon*, 1907

How would you characterize the early work of Braque?

Which Post-Impressionist artist had the greatest influence on Braque? Why?

Which painting is considered to be the first truly Cubist work? What is the date of this work?

List six general characteristics of Cubism and explain each.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

What is meant by the term *passage*?

What is meant by the term “cubist grid”?

According to Braque, how is painting and written language alike?

To what does the term “synthetic” Cubism refer?

Modern Sculpture

List 6 major artistic concerns of modern sculptors. List an example for each.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Spread of Cubism

Who were Gleizes and Metzinger? What were their contributions to Cubism?

In general, how did the content of the later cubists artists differ from that of Picasso or Braque? Why?

Orphism

Which artist is associated with Orphism?

How does Orphism differ from Cubism?

Futurism

Which artists are associated with Futurism? In what country were they working?

How does Futurism differ from Cubism?

Suprematism and Constructivism

Which artist is associated with Suprematism? Where is he working?

What is the difference between Suprematism and Constructivism?

Neoplasticism

Which artist is associated with Neoplasticism? Where is he from?

What does the term Neoplasticism suggest?

How do Neoplasticism, Suprematism and Constructivism compare to Cubism?

Metaphysical School

Which artist is associated with the Metaphysical School? Where is he painting?

List 4 characteristics of Metaphysical painting.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Dada

Where did the work “dada” come from?

Which artists are associated with Zurich and /or German Dada?

List 7 characteristics of Zurich and/or German Dada.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Which artists are associated with New York Dada?

List 4 general characteristics of New York Dada.

1.

2.

3.

4.

List 2 aspects of Zurich and/or German Dada that are also evident in New York Dada.

1.

2.

How is New York Dada significantly different from Dada movements in Europe?

What is a ready-made? What is an assisted ready-made?

Did Duchamp consider his ready-mades to be art? Why or why not?

Surrealism

Who was André Breton?

What is a key difference between Surrealism and Dada?

List 7 pictorial devices used by the Surrealist to reveal the processes of the unconscious mind.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What is the difference between figurative Surrealism and non-figurative Surrealism?

Which artists are associated with non-figurative Surrealism?

Which artists are associated with figurative Surrealism?

Early 20th century American Art

The Eight

How did the subject matter and handling of paint in the work of The Eight contrast with academic painting in America at the beginning of the 20th century?

Regionalism and Social Realism

What is the difference between regionalist content and social realist content?

Mexican Modernism

For what type of painting are the Mexican modernist best known?

With which movement is Kahlo often associated?

Diego Rivera Film Guide

1. Describe the political situation in Mexico in 1921.
2. How was Rivera trained?
3. What is true fresco?
4. Why did Rivera's images at the Ministry of Education offend many middle class viewers?
5. Why did Rivera want to do fresco murals in particular?
6. What penny broadside artist did Rivera admire? Why?

Abstract Expressionism

In what specific ways were the following important precedents for Abstract Expressionism:

Hofmann and Gorky:

Kandinsky:

Dada:

Surrealism:

List six general characteristics of the Abstract Expressionist style:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Who was Jung? How did he define archetypes?

What is the difference between action painting and color field Abstract Expressionism?

What is meant by the term “art for art’s sake”?

Gutai and Happenings

What was the goal of the Gutai artists as stated in their manifesto?

How did Kaprow define Happenings?

Why were artists interested in doing Happenings instead of making traditional art objects? Cite four reasons.

a.

b.

c.

d.

What is the difference between a Happening and a theatrical play?

Why did some artists who had performed Happenings turn to video?

Pop Art

How does Oldenburg in his sculpture challenge viewer expectations?

Which two artists were important precursors to Pop Art? How?

What teachers at Black Mountain College were influential on Rauschenberg and Johns?

List four general characteristics of Pop Art

1.

2.

3.

4.

Where did the Pop style originate? Why?

Why was Pop art sometimes called neo-Dada? In what significant way did Pop art differ from Dada?

Minimalism, Conceptual Art, and Earth Art

List seven characteristics of Minimalist sculpture:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What does Judd mean by a “Specific Object”?

What is a gestalt?

What is meant by the term “phenomenology”?

In what way were the following important precedents for Minimalist sculpture?

Dada:

Cézanne:

Constructivism:

How does Conceptual artist Sol Le Witt construct his objects? How does his work differ from Minimalist work?

New Realism

List three ways in which the treatment of the human figure by the new realists differs from the classical tradition?

1.

2.

3.

What is the difference between photo-realism and new perceptual realism? Which artists are associated with which?

Feminist Art

What are some of the themes found in feminist art? List eight.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Film guide for Art of the Western World: Art in Our Time

1. Describe the historical background for contemporary art.
2. Where did the Abstract Expressionists paint?
3. Who was the leading Abstract Expressionist? Which artists influenced his art?
4. How does Abstract Expressionist painting in Europe differ from that in the U.S.?
5. How long was it before Abstract Expressionism was superseded by another style? Why?
6. How does the pictorial space of works by Rauschenberg or Johns differ from Renaissance linear perspective?
7. What kind of culture influenced Pop art?

