

Art Movements



By Hashem Mcadam

Art Movements

Inclinations in art during different time periods always vary, and the amount specific styles over time is extremely vast, with each being a building block in the history of art, as it went through phases affected by not only artists but by the world around them. Movements would evolve and some styles followed like fads, whereas in today's world of art, movements are not followed like they were, in favour of creating one's own style. This essay will summarize 17 popular art movements comprising of; Abstract Art, Abstract Expression, Conceptual Art, Cubism, Dada, Expressionism, Fauvism, Formalism, Impressionism, Modernism, Pop Art, Post Modernism, Primitivism, Surrealism, Tachisme, Realism, and Romanticism.

Abstract Art

Abstract Art is a style of art where by there is no direct representation of real actual world entities but rather colour and shape are used to produce a personal meaning, or merely something of pleasing aesthetic value. The time art which could be classified as abstract goes back centuries, however from 1911 arts emerged which would be seen as full abstract pieces which started its modern incarnation which can still be seen to this day. These early pioneers of the art form included Wassily Kandinsky, Natalia Goncharova and Mikhail Larionov. Abstract is a broad category which encapsulates other, more specific art movements such as cubism and abstract expressionism.

The main concept is not to make an accurate, realistic representation of something but to take an object and exaggerate or simplify it using its form/shape, and colours.



Wassily Kandinsky (1913).



Natalia Goncharova (1913).



Mikhail Larionov (1919)

Abstract Expression

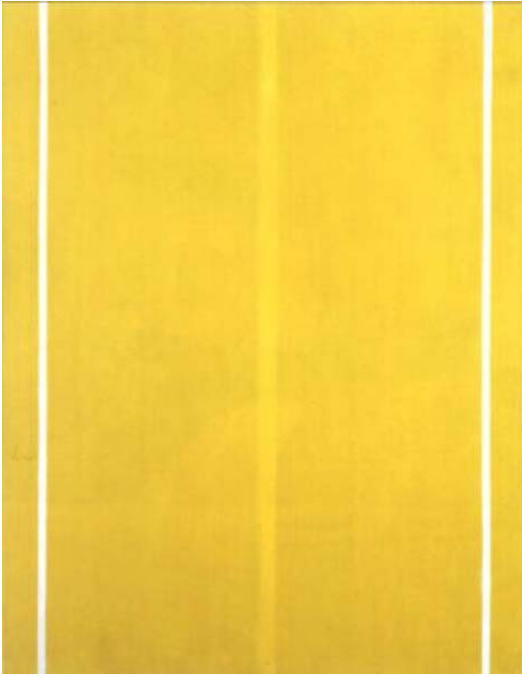
Abstract Expressionism was a movement of abstract style art which originated in New York City, and was prominent during the time period of 1940-1955. The concept was to display, through abstract art, emotion and expression rather than objects. These arts often attempted to display a reality of the artists mind, or simply other than the real world. These arts would commonly be made through spontaneous inclusion of lines, shapes, forms, and colour. A few abstract expressionists of the movement included Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, and Barnett Newman



Joan Mitchell (1955)



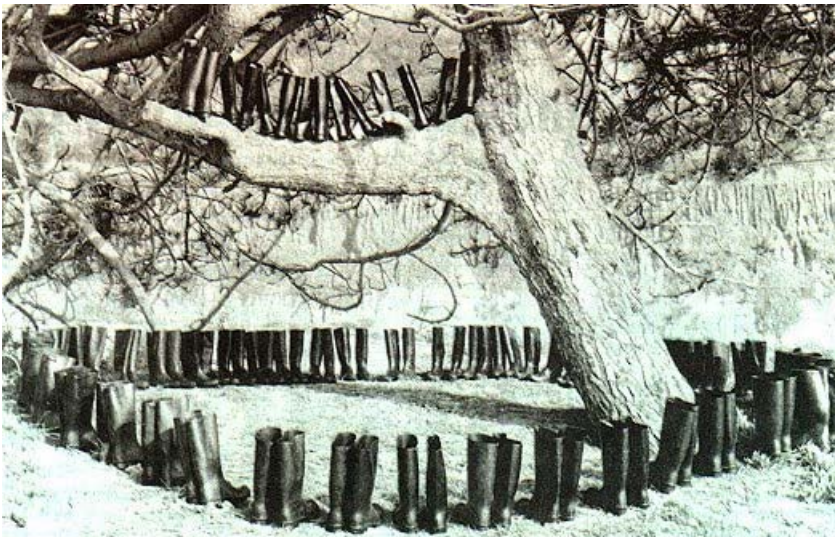
Helen Frankenthaler (1952)



Barnett Newman (1949)

Conceptual Art

This was an art movement of the 1960's and 1970's which would involve the art representing ideas or concepts behind the art itself. For example Piero Manzoni's *Socle Du Monde* ("Base of the world") is an art based on the concept that it holds up the world. Although physically it is merely a block with the words "Socle Du Monde" placed upside down, it is about the concept encapsulating it. Interestingly this man also exhibited and sold tins of his own faeces, and balloons of his breath. The aesthetic value therefore appeared to be of little importance in art of this movement. Other artists of this movement included Yves Klein and Eleanor Antin.



Eleanor Antin (1971)



Piero Manzoni (1962)



Yves Klein (1960)

Cubism

The Cubist art movement was a phase between 1907 and 1920. The look of this art involves segmenting objects and arranging the pieces in abstracted form, and from multiple viewpoints or perspectives. The segments would often be small cube-like geometric shapes with various angles of view, size, orientation, etc. The movement involved highly analytical work, especially during the first sub-phase, with the second being coined the "Synthetic Phase". Pablo Picasso was an early pioneer of this art movement, and other artists included Georges Braque and Maria Blanchard.



Georges Braque (1913)



Picasso (1913)



Maria Blanchard (1917)

Dada

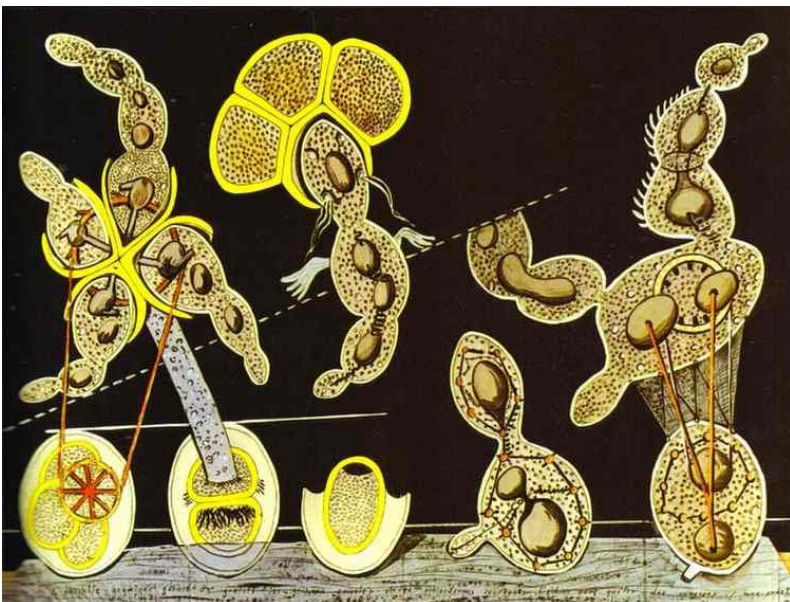
This was an art movement from 1915-1923 which rejected popularized aesthetic values, and attempted to create bizarre, nonsensical "anti-art". Dadaism was also a cultural movement of a post World War I era, and the artworks tended to have no implied meaning. The works often mocked the artwork or styles of other artists, and the most popular example of dada seems to be Marcel Duchamp's mockery of the Mona Lisa (see below). This highly anti-standard type of art was to be an influence to later art movements such as Surrealism and Pop Art, and artists of the movement included Hannah Höch and Max Ernst.



Hannah Höch 1919



Marcel Duchamp (1919)



Max Ernst (1921)

Expressionism

Expressionists were artists prominent from 1905-1925, who's artwork would use exaggerated expression and distortion to display some emotional effect. The movement was popularised in Northern Europe. A very famous and recently controversial example which influenced up and coming artists of this movement was Edvard Munch's "The Scream", with later artists such as Oskar Kokoschka, Marc Chagall and Gabriele Münter.

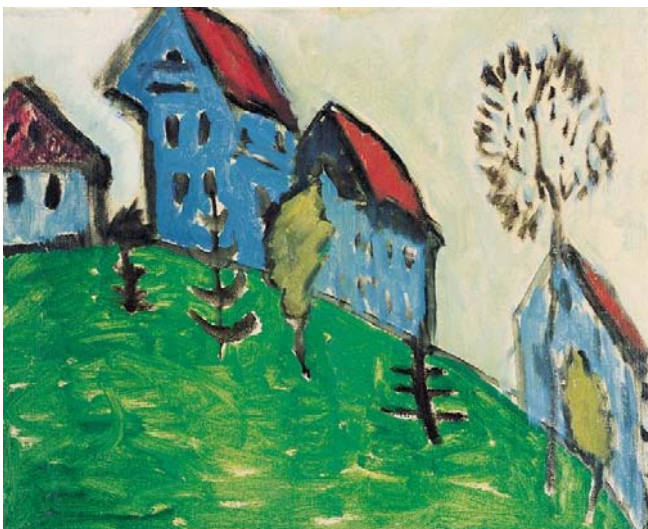
The aesthetic look of these artworks was often abstract. Distorting lines and shapes was common practice in expressionism, with use of exaggerated colours and brush strokes.



Oskar Kokoschka (1914)



Marc Chagall (1943)



Gabriele Münter (1911)

Fauvism

This movement is based on the French term "fauve" which means "wild beast". This term relates to the art through the wild, bold use of colours, and often spontaneous distorted look to the paintings. The signature look of paintings was bright with vivid colours and simple lines. Few artists followed this movement besides its early pioneers Henri Matisse and André Derain. The movement was between the period 1905-1908, and other participants included painters such as Marguerite Thompson Zorach.



Henri Matisse (1905)



Marguerite Thompson Zorach (1940)



André Derain (1906)

Formalism

Formalism whilst not being a particular movement was a period in Modern art from the late 1800's to the 1960's where form in art took priority over realism. It gave emphasis to shape, colour, texture, lines and contrast in art. In this post-impressionist period, the basis of formalism gave rise to other art movements such as cubism, conceptual art, minimalism, and to some degree, pop art.

Impressionism

This art movement started in the late 19th century through the works of French painters whose work would focus on the effects of light and colour. Impressionism was mainly a representational art form, with nature and life subjects featuring prominently. With the focus on light and colour, impressionist painters attempted to give more accurate representations of real life equivalents. The period whilst not concisely restricted to the time of the particular movement was between 1860-1900, and like other movements gave birth to or influenced some other art movements. Impressionist artists included pioneer Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Mary Stevenson Cassatt.



Mary Stevenson Cassatt (1893)



Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1876)



Claude Monet (1899)

Modernism

Modernism was again more of an overall movement which simply signified the change from traditional art forms and the strive to create more complex artworks which were abstract and expressionist in form. It was a movement containing many other movements; which made the move away from conventional artwork, and happened during the period of 1890-1940. It was an overall tendency pioneered by artists such as Paul Cézanne, Edouard Manet, and Sigrid Hjertén



Edouard Manet (1864)



Sigrid Hjertén (1916)



Paul Cézanne (1876)

Pop Art

The Pop Art movement was one which was influenced by popular culture, and was a move against art of its time (1950-1969) similarly to Dadaism. It commonly used techniques similar in aestheticism to advertising and mass media. It was a response against the seriousness of abstract expressionism. It would involve commonplace people and items of the time such as soda bottle and soup cans, particularly the work of Andy Warhol who was an establisher of pop art. Other pop artists of the movement included Roy Lichtenstein, and British artist Pauline Boty.



Andy Warhol (1968)



Roy Lichtenstein (1965)



Pauline Boty (1963)

Post Modernism

Post modernism is an overall reference to a wide range of cultural occurrences and subjects, including many art movements. It is a term which became common in the 1970's, for a technically controversial designation of a period between 1960 and today. The basis of the idea of modernism is that it is the move from modernism, including art movements before this time. It is an overall subject concerning itself with areas such as deconstruction, idea of reality, simulacra (Baudrillard), and structuralism. Artists whose works are considered post-modern include those in the art movement periods within that of post modernism, including those such as Andy Warhol and other pop artists.

Primitivism

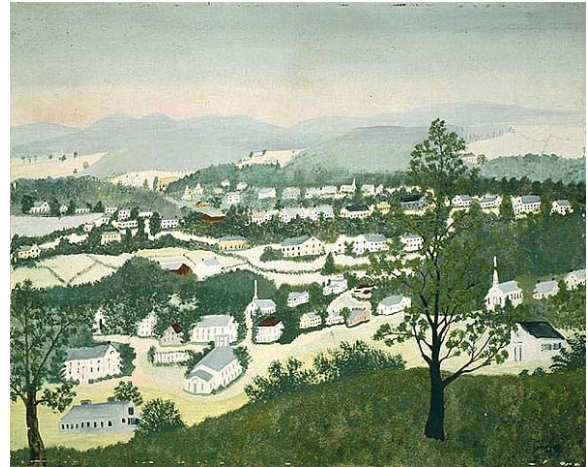
Primitivism [1890-1950] was an art style whereby artists would display bizarre works attempting to make touch with the 'primitive' side of the world, and highlight the phenomena of the European /Western world which was argued to have lost touch with primitive aspects. Early pioneer Henri Rousseau argued that the 18th century art lacked "*nature, passion, emotion, instinct and mysticism*", which brought about the focus on highlighting these aspects of difference. Much of this original primitive style art displayed a rough look giving outlooks on 'primitive' life including African cultural themes and ritualistic aspects. Other artists who can be classified into this movement include "Grandma Moses", and Paul Gauguin.



Paul Gauguin (1897)



Henri Rousseau (1907)



Grandma Moses (1946)

Surrealism

This was a movement which started in 1920's France and lasted through the 1930's. It was an art movement displaying works which played on the idea of reality and dreams. Artists would also create works which attempt to transform the real world. An example is the work of René Magritte shown below, of which the text translates into "this is not a pipe". Some other Surrealists were Dorothea Tanning and Salvador Dalí.



René Magritte (1929)



Dorothea Tanning (1946)



Salvador Dalí (1937)

Tachisme

Tachisme was more or less a style of abstract expressionism, prominent in France/Europe in the 1940's and 50's. Tachist artists had a more spontaneous touch to their artwork, with a common look of blotches and splashed paint which involved much use of gestures and actions. Example of Tachist artists are Georges Mathieu, Maria Helena Vieira da Silva and Hans Hartung.



Georges Mathieu (1950)



Hans Hartung (1951)



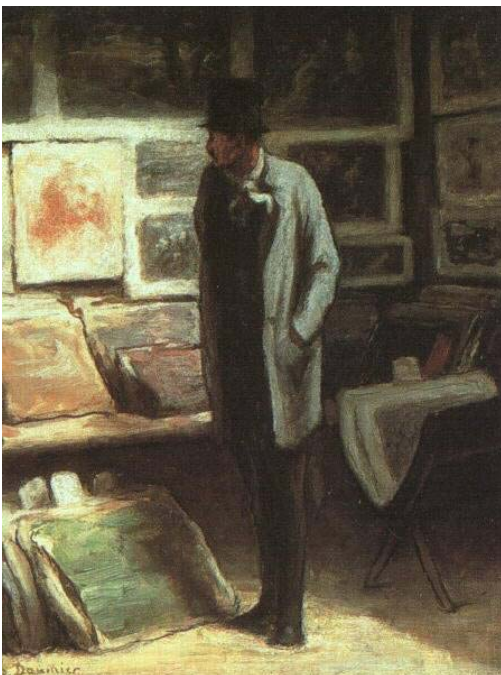
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (1949)

Realism

Realism [1840-1880] was a very general movement which rejected dramatic romanticism and produced artwork of real to life scenes. Subjects in the artworks had closely representational colour, shadows and features, without abstract focus. Realist art included that of James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Honore Daumier and Rosa Bonheur.



J A McNeill Whistler (1863)



Honore Daumier 1860



Rosa Bonheur (1872)

Romanticism

The romanticism art movement was evident during the key dates of 1800-1880. It is a deeply emotional style of art with intellectual value. Expression was spontaneous, giving precedence to feeling rather than reason. The style of painting was commonly energetic and dramatic, and often featured nature as a source of the emotional content. Some artists of the movement were Caspar David Friedrich, Marie-Louise-Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun, and Eugene Delacroix.



Caspar David Friedrich (1818)



Marie-Louise-Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun (1799)



Eugene Delacroix (1830)