



# NOTES FOR ART APPRECIATION

## 1. Mannerism

- Late Renaissance (1520-1600), before Baroque style emerged
- Geographical Location: Florence and Rome, Italy
- Also known as Late Renaissance
- **Maniera** - Italian word means 'style or manner'
- Reaction against Renaissance art movement

Renaissance	Mannerism
Strict Classical Style	Highly Stylized
Proportion	Exaggerated Forms
Balance	Distorted Perspectives
Harmony	Complex Compositions
Restrained and Subtle Emotion	Heightened Emotion

### ART FORMS OF MANNERISM

#### 1. Painting

- S-shaped composition
- Graceful but oddly positioned bodies
- Elongated proportions
- Highly stylized facial expressions

#### 2. Sculpture

- Complex Composition
- Elongated Proportions
- Dramatic Expression

#### 3. Architecture

- Intense Architectural Effect
- Symmetry
- Use of Contrast
- Exaggerated Forms

## 2. Romanticism

- was a reaction to the Enlightenment and the Age of Reason, which emphasized logic and reason
- **Romantics** believed that emotions and feelings were just as important as logic and reason, and that the individual should be free to express themselves creatively. They also believed in the power of nature, the imagination, and the spiritual.
- Europe - 18th Century
- came about because of the renewed
- interest in Medieval stories of heroism and emotion
- rebellion against the Neo-Classicism
- stressed the individuality and creativity of the artist
- artists are free to express his/her view of the world
- valued originality, inspiration, and imagination
- emphasized sense and emotion, along with reason is important
- favored coloristic and painterly techniques over the linear, cool tone of the neoclassical style
- common subjects are nature, the past, and the inner world of human nature

## 3. Medieval

- **Roman Empire in 476 A.D.** - early stages of the Renaissance 14th century
- Also known as the **Dark Ages** or **Middle Ages**
- Biblical and Classical Themes for Churches
- European regions, Middle East, North Africa
- Paintings, Sculptures, Architecture, Stained Glass
- **Illuminated Manuscript**
  - formally prepared document
  - pictures were very important during medieval times
- **Stained Glass**
  - colored and painted glass
  - used in churches to enhance their beauty and to inform the viewer through narrative or symbolism
- **Tapestries**
  - woven wall hangings that depict a scene or famous painting
  - easy to transport from one location to another for display

### **FOUR MAJOR PERIODS AND STYLES**

### 1. Early Christian

- Late 2nd or early 3rd Century
- Spiritual and Religious
- Christian images
- Basilica type of structure
- Biblical scenes

### 2. Byzantine

- Early Byzantine c. 330-730
- Middle Byzantine c. 843-1204
- Late Byzantine c. 1261-1453
- Classical and Asian traditions
- Reflection of Heaven

### 3. Romanesque

- Approximately 1000 A.D.
- Manner of the Romans
- A style of art and architecture that emerged in the 11th and 12th centuries
- Used to construct church buildings

### 4. Gothic

- Mid-12th Century
- Links with Romanesque art with Renaissance
- Distinctive characteristics which symbolizes an expression of faith

## 4. Baroque

- 1600 - 1750 CE
- **Baroque** comes from the Portuguese word barocco meaning "irregular pearl or stone". The theme of its paintings and sculptures is religious, more of the element of the Catholic dogma.
- **Baroque Sculpture** - Religious themes: The artworks, religious symbols and mythological themes, are monumental wall paintings and huge frescoes. These serve to educate the people about Catholicism.
- **Baroque Painting** - Dramatic lighting: The paintings are open composition, meaning the lines, shapes and elements make the image dynamic. The use of light and shadow creates a contrast that heightens the emotional impact.
- characterized by drama, movement, energy, restlessness
- **Chiaroscuro** - a new technique was developed during this period, is the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, usually bold contrasts affecting a whole

composition. It is also a technical term used by artists and art historians for the use of contrasts of light to achieve a sense of volume in modelling three-dimensional objects and figures.

- Baroque buildings are highly ornamented which creates spectacle and illusion.
- The music of baroque is one of the richest and most diverse periods in music history.

#### **Different forms of Baroque:**

- cantata
- concerto
- sonata
- oratorio
- opera

## **5. Renaissance**

- Florence, Italy (mid 1300s)
- a French word which means "rebirth"
- period of artistic
- Birth of Humanism
- Naturalism
- Easel Paintings became popular
- Portraying subjects as natural as possible
- Modelling, shading, and geometrical/linear perspective

### **EARLY RENAISSANCE**

- Chiaroscuro effect in paintings
- Employed perspective

### **HIGH RENAISSANCE**

- Landscape art became common
- Foreground, middle ground, background

### **TOWARDS END OF RENAISSANCE**

- Figures with dramatic postures
- Foreshortening
- Marble blocks for sculpture
- Paintings are closed compositions
- Single focus on paintings

### **RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE**

- **Palazzos** - refers to an architectural style of the 19th and 20th centuries based upon the palazzi (palaces) built by wealthy families of the Italian.

- Observed ideals of balance, symmetry, and proportion

## **6. Rococo**

- Also known as the Late Baroque
- Intend to please rather to instruct
- Developed in France in the 1700s
- Derived from the word 'Rocaille' which means 'Shell'
- Lighter and more graceful tone
- Aristocratic
- Asymmetrical
- Curve lines
- Lighter Palette
- Excessive Details

### **PAINTING**

- Detail-oriented
- Ornate
- Pastel Tone

### **DECORATIVE ART**

- Lighter color palette
- Elegance
- Asymmetrical
- Sinuous curves
- Excessive Details

### **SCULPTURE**

- Lightness
- Delicate details
- Playfulness

### **ARCHITECTURE**

- Highly-ornamental
- Pastel colors
- Asymmetrical forms
- Elegance

## **7. Art Nouveau**

- A French term meaning "**New Art**"
- Flourished in Western Europe and US between 1890 and 1905
- Art Nouveau, though very prominent in architecture, pervaded all arts. It includes great variety of fine and decorative arts.
- Painting, graphic art, interior design, jewelry, furniture, textiles, ceramics, glass art and metal work.
- **Siegried Bing** - A German - born art dealer, critic and entrepreneur established a store and showroom called La Mansion del Art Nouveau (The House of New Art)
- **Asai Chu (2006)** - Testified that Art Nouveau movement aimed to achieved a truly contemporary and modern style.
- **William Morris** - Art Nouveau was also inspired by non - western art that was being imported into Europe.

#### Sources of Art Nouveau:

1. Inspired by natural forms for their complexity and irregularity
2. Rococo Design
3. Japanese print

#### Architecture

- concentrated in Europe and the US that took on varying names and characteristic as it spread
- Art Nouveau's broad influence across architecture design, and visual arts allows for the creation of what are known as total work of art.

## 8. Constructivism

**Constructivism** was an artistic and architectural theory that originated in Russia at the beginning of 1913 by **Vladimir Tatlin**. This was a rejection of the idea of autonomous art by constructing it. The movement supported art as a practice for social objectives.

Constructivism greatly influenced the modern art movements of the 20th century, as manifested in major trends such as the Bauhaus and De Stijl. Its influence was widespread, with major impacts on

- architecture
- sculpture
- graphic design
- Industrial design
- theater film
- dance
- fashion
- music

### Key Features of Constructivism:

- focused on industrial production
- geometric forms and shapes
- use of industrial materials
- create unified visual image
- bright colors and strong lines
- combined bright colors
- bold letterings to create attention-grabbing images intended to solicit emotional responses or reactions

### Vladimir Tatlin

- A Russian-Ukrainian
- Soviet Painter
- Architect
- Stage-Designer
- Known for being central to the birth of Russian constructivism

## 9. De Stijl

- 1917 - 1931
- De Stijl, which translates to "**The Style**", is a Dutch art movement that emerged in the early 20th century. It was founded in Amsterdam in 1917.
- Focused on creating visual harmony through abstraction and simplicity
- Significant impact on modern art, design, and architecture
- Abstraction
- Simplicity
- Harmony and Balance
- Geometric forms
- Primary Colors and Non-Colors
- Horizontal and Vertical Lines
- Grid Structures

## 10. Impressionism

**Impressionism** - is an art movement characterized by its focus on portraying fleeting impressions of modern life and environment through the use of light, color, and loose brushwork.

**Post Impressionism** - was an art movement that developed in the late 19th century, following the Impressionist movement. It was characterized by a focus on subjective

expression and a departure from the Impressionist emphasis on capturing the immediate effects of light and color.

**Pointillism** - is a painting technique that was developed by the Post-Impressionist artist **Georges Seurat**. It involved creating images using small, distinct dots or points of color that were applied in patterns to form an overall image.

- originated in France in the 1860s and 1870s
- **Claude Monet** - Father of Impressionism
- Focus on light and color
- Loose brushwork
- Everyday subjects
- Emphasis on the moment
- Impression of movement
- Interest in perception
- Use of complementary colors

## 11. Minimalism

**Minimalism** is an extreme form of abstract art developed in the USA in the 1960s and typified by artworks composed of simple geometric shapes based on the square and the rectangle.

- to keep the work an apparent minimum
- a completely literal presence
- uses hard edges, repeating geometric shapes, blocks of colors, and limited color choices
- promotes extreme simplicity and very limited use of resources

## 12. Popular Art

- Late 1950s - 1960s
- inspired by commercial and popular culture
- The Term "pop art" was derived from "popular art"
- began in Britain and United States (mid-1950s)
- Irony and Satire
- Bold Colors
- Flat Imaginary
- **Just What Is It That Makes Today's Homes So Different, So Appealing?** by Richard Hamilton (1956) - considered as the first pop work of art
- **I was a Rich Man's Plaything** by Eduardo Paolozzi (1947) - considered as the initial bearer of "pop art" and the



first to display the word "pop"

- Pop artists helped defined the Pop art movement and continue to be influential in the art world today

## 13. Installation Art

- **Installation Art** - a form of contemporary art that involves the configuration or "installation" of objects in a space, such as a room or warehouse. The resulting arrangement of material and space comprises the "artwork". Its main goal is to engage the viewer's senses and emotions and transform their perception of the space and environment in which the artwork is located.

### **Key Features:**

- Complete unified experience
- Site-specific
- Immersive experience
- Conceptual focus
- Audience participation
- Engage the viewers senses (touch, sound, smell & vision) Temporary

### **Types of Installation Art:**

- Drawings or paintings
- Found objects
- Light or sound
- Ready-mades
- Sculptures
- Text

## 14. Conceptual Art

- It emerged in 1950s and 1960s.
- Can take various forms such as: text, language, photographs, videos, and installations

### **Characteristics:**

- Emphasis on the idea or concept
- Use of non-traditional materials
- Minimalist aesthetics
- Critique of the art world
- Audience participation
- Use of language