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Throughout Tate Britain’s diverse collection of art, the pop art style stood out as one of the more unparalleled styles. Pop art emerged in the 1950s and hit its peak of popularity in the 1960s. Beginning as a rebellion against the conventional styles of art, pop art gradually received wide acclaim through the captivation of pop culture and connection to everyday life. Artists of the movement wanted to create things that they could relate to instead of following the art school system’s methodology. Most pop art is very short lived and its target audience is aimed at the youth. Although pop art raises many questions of whether the art is considered real art due to its progressive, simplistic style, it turned many heads and was very influential to other movements in later decades.

Eduardo Paolozzi was a brilliant artist that created pop art. From his *Bunk* collage series to his sculptures, his work was profoundly inspired by pop culture and consumerism, particularly of America. He created his piece, *I’m a Rich Man’s Plaything*, by cutting out magazines given to him as a gift. The central focus of the collage is an animated picture of a woman. To the right of the woman are distasteful quotes that are stated by the women or descriptive of her past. These quotes suggest that women were still viewed as a sex symbol back when the collage was made since pop art is dependent on the contemporary pop culture and the content of the mass media. Furthermore, the words ‘Intimate Confessions’ are clearly printed at the center on the top of the page, with a gun that points at the girl and is connected to a ‘POP!’ noise so as to suggest that the girl was shot with a ‘truth gun’, which makes her state her sins. Notably, the woman is also dressed in a revealing dress and pantyhose and smiles while exclaiming, “I was a rich man’s plaything” and “Ex-mistress”. The collage was also designed post-war, so the airplane is pertinent to the time era. Moreover, the Coca-Cola brand image adds to the pop culture holistic viewpoint since Coca-Cola was one of the top soft drink being consumed back in the 1950s. All in all, this collage was an assemblage of random and striking icons or trends that appealed to the mass media or pertained to the historical timeline Paolozzi created it in.

David Hockney was another influential artist that contributed to the pop art movement. *A Bigger Splash* was painted by him and based in California, where Hockney visited prior to the painting of the scenery several times. Corresponding to the characteristics of pop art, Hockney created *A Bigger Splash* as a result of his experiences of the culture of Los Angeles. When he went, he saw that a majority of people had a pool to use in their homes, leading to him drawing the object that was a mass appeal to California. Not to mention, his depiction of the scene of a backyard very much resembles that of a Hollywood star: palm trees, building with large, clear windows, and massive, blue pool. The piece in general is very calm and peaceful and the shapes in the painting are very simplistic. It is interesting because the blue canvas that is supposed to resemble the sky has absolutely no details and not even a hint of any clouds. This suggests that the focus of the painting is on the splash, suggesting that there was a diver in the pool even though there is no presence of a human being throughout the painting. I felt that this piece was exemplary of pop art in that it strayed from conventional styles. On the contrary, this piece elicited blank emotions, emphasizing the authenticity of the focus of the painting, which is the pool.

Paolozzi and Hockney were both huge contributors to the pop art collection. Ultimately, pop art set the tone and provided a platform for postmodernism to progress.