

reinventing the past

how past art
has
influenced
modern art



copying the past



honoring the past

by gaby nugent

part 1:

Reinventing past narratives

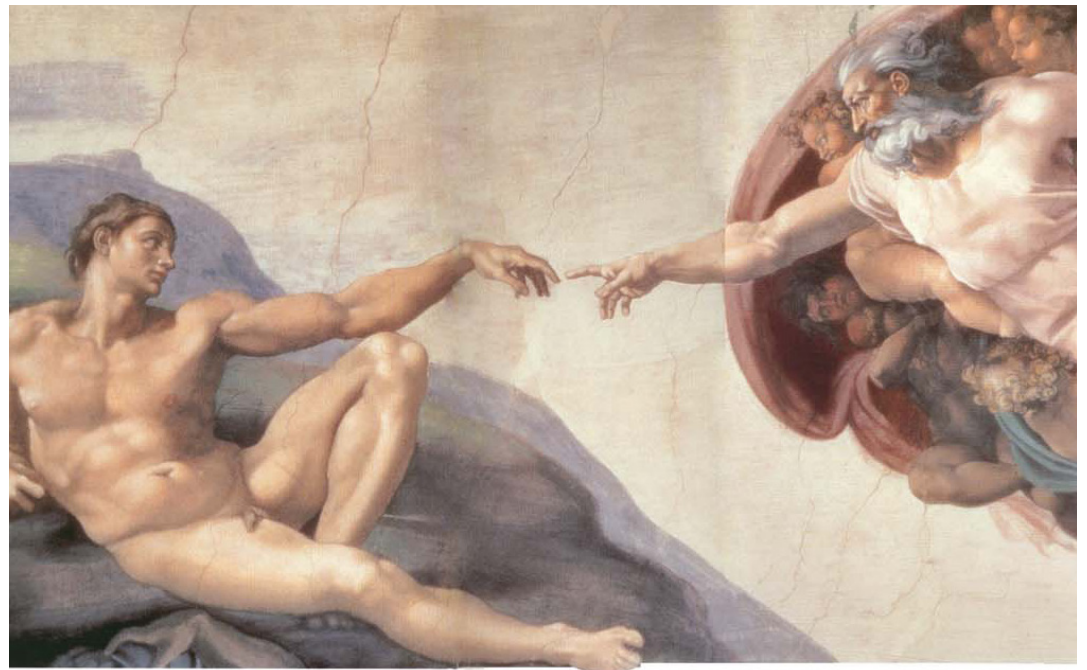


Recreating art through a modern lens

One of the best ways to observe how societies have changed throughout time is to observe the art created in those periods. It gets more interesting when that art is recreated and reinterpreted to fit modern ideals. Afro-Cuban artist, Harmonia Rosales perfectly demonstrates how past art can be used as inspiration to create a different narrative. Rosales tackled Leonard DaVinci's *Birth of Venus* (*Birth of Oshun*) as well as Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam* (*The Creation of God*) and many other famous Renaissance pieces. It's important to understand the purpose behind her pieces. In an interview with Dazed Magazine, Rosales comments on how she wanted to take a well-known piece of artwork that "consciously conditions us to see white male figures as powerful and authoritative" and create a complete counter-narrative (speaking about her *The Creation of God* piece. Her meaning behind her *Birth of Oshun* piece is also quite powerful as she talks about how all human life came from Africa and that it only makes sense to paint God as a black woman.



Creation of God



Creation of Adam



Birth of Oshun

part 2:

Copying the past leads to honoring it

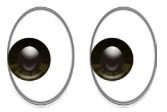


gucci 2003

alexis 2019



Let's talk about how we copy



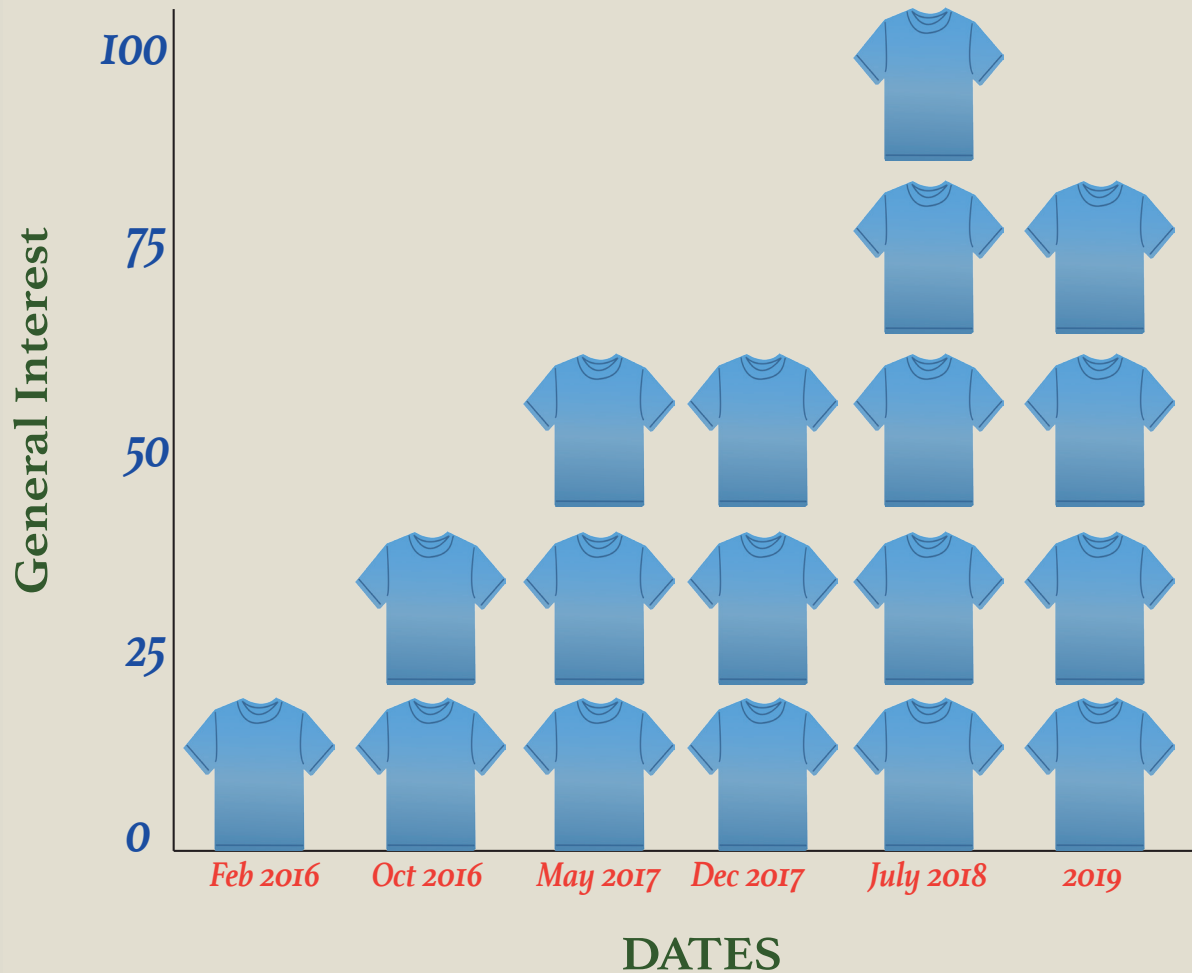
In part one, we talked about how past works of art can be altered to display a message that is pertinent in modern times. Now, it is important to address how people honor certain fashion trends from the past, as well as how designers just blatantly copy works from the past.

To the left, there are two *different* yet almost identical looking dresses. The one on the right is by a fashion brand named Alexis and the one on the left is from the Gucci Spring/Summer 2003 collection. Unlike the pieces painted above, this new dress does not reinvent its design in order to make a statement about modern times, it *copies* a trend from 16 years ago.

When things like this happen, it helps to create a distinction between honoring past trends and blatantly copying them to claim them as one's own. This also displays how past trends never really die out. In recent times, vintage trends have become a popular way for people to express themselves through clothing. Many people have been taking inspiration from the 90's and early 2000's as low rise jeans and butterfly clips are becoming must-haves. Without even knowing it, this new wave has brought on a boom in second-hand shopping as well as thrifting. This is an incredibly sustainable way to honor the past and promote creativity within fashion.

(images found on *Diet Prada*)

Interest in Thrifting Between 2016 and 2019



Vintage *inspiration* *evocative* *timeless*
THRIFTED

This graph represents a positive relationship between the years 2016 and 2019 and the interest in thrifting. The graph shows a climb in the dates nearing 2019. It's important to note that thrift stores promote a no-waste sustainable society. Brands that ethically make their clothes (unlike fast fashion) whose products are usually placed at an expensive price, are able to be found at incredibly discounted prices. People with lower incomes can also access cheap but well-made clothing.

Honoring the past:

vintage influence within media



Lady Bird ~ thrifting scene
2017



Kate Moss, 1991



Unif, 2019



1991

Billie Eilish, 2018





This visual essay explains three different ways that past art has been manipulated and processed in modern times. It's really interesting to observe how societies have changed and grown. In part I, we discussed how art can be reinvented by looking at the works of Harmonia Rosales. In this section, it is important to note that Rosales is making a point to abandon the previous work's past message, and creating a new one. In part two, we learn about how fashion can really just be copying a past era's trends. We also touch on sustainability and the rise of thrifting within our society.