

the universal impulse toward abstraction pp. 1078-1079

- abstraction is often associated with modern art
- triangle, circle, and square - sengai gibbon
 - could mean many things
 - literally a square, triangle, and a circle
- in east asia from the 11th century forward artists avoided fidelity to visible forms
 - avoided form likeness
- south asia
 - decorative minimalism
- the navajo
 - sand paintings
 - flat designs that contain sacred symbols
 - repetitive geometric forms
 - containing figures of holy people or plants and animals
 - image is structured around the cardinal directions
 - used for healing rituals
 - patient sits on the painting during a healing chant
 - painting is destroyed at the end of the ritual
- art that uses symbols to represent things has been around since art was a thing
 - like figures of animals in cave paintings

ch. 67: futurism, dada, surrealism, and political interest in european and mexican modern art

- ww1 mobilized women
 - they replaced men (who were at war) in the workforce

italian futurism

- the italian futurists banded together before ww1
 - ultranationalistic
 - embraced modern technology
 - all original members were male
 - male-centered and anti feminist
 - they announced the new movement on the front page of the paris newspaper le figaro
 - in 1909
 - they proclaimed that it would be a movement not limited to italy
 - they wanted to wipe out all of art history and replace it with modern things
 - claiming that a roaring motorcar is more beautiful than a handcarved stone statue
 - they experimented with performance art
- unique forms of continuity in space, umberto boccioni

- statue
- a human like figure
- "the man of the future"
 - part man and part machine
- dynamism of a dog on a leash, giacomo balla
 - oil painting
 - shows many steps of motion of a dog on a leash
 - the dog's legs, ears, and tail are a blur
 - along with the leash
 - looks like a long exposure photo
- futurism grew into an international movement
 - in painting, sculpture, photography, cinema, fashion, graphic design
- the fiat tagliero station
 - building evoking the form of an airplane

dada: anarchy and provocation

- dada was an informal international movement
- they rebelled against standards in european art and culture
 - considered to be morally bankrupt
- they were anti-war, anti-capitalism, and anti-authority
- marcel duchamp
- nude descending a staircase, marcel duchamp
 - pre dada
 - depicts a figure moving in many positions at once
- the dada movement was very split up between different places
 - and very nondescript
 - it was most organized in neutral switzerland
- reciting karawane, hugo ball
 - a performance
 - he wore a cardboard costume while flapping his wings and reciting karawane, a poem he wrote consisting of unintelligible sounds and fragments of words
 - he was a founder of dada
- L.H.O.O.Q., duchamp
 - he got a postcard of the mona lisa and drew a beard and moustache on her
 - duchamp wanted to challenge art more so than be political

the richard mutt case

- protesting the exclusion of fountain from the society for independent artist's exhibition
- reasons state that it was vulgar and immoral, others say it is just a plain piece of plumbing
- argument states that it is no more immoral than a bathtub
- fountain, duchamp
 - a porcelain urinal signed "R. MUTT 1917"
 - rejected at the exhibition
 - even though it was supposedly open to anyone who pays the entrance fee
 - mass produced object in a new context

- raises questions
 - what makes something art
 - does the artist decide what is art

berlin dada: assemblage, collage, and social critique

- dada continued after ww1 ended
- a group from germany declared their allegiance to the philosophy
- they satirized postwar german society
- mechanical head (spirit of the age), raoul hausmann
 - a wig-making dummy head with a variety of objects attached to it
 - things like a ruler
 - parts of a pocket watch
 - tape measure
 - a metaphor for hausmann's view on the german people
 - the average german has no more capabilities than those that are glued to the side of his skull, his brain remains empty"

surrealist art in europe

- surrealism began as a literary movement
 - inspired by sigmund freud and karl marx
- surrealists were optimistic
 - they believed that people could liberate the unconscious mind and free themselves from traditional thinking that leads to war and social ills
- they were also misogynistic
- surrealism was much more organized than dada
 - founded by andre breton in 1924
 - he admired psychoanalysis
- two children are threatened by a nightingale, max ernst
 - inspiration came from a dream he had during a measles induced fever
 - consists of a wood frame, with scenery objects stuck inside it and the people and background painted on
- object, meret oppenheim
 - a cup, saucer, and a spoon all covered in fur from a chinese gazelle
 - a juxtaposition of wild nature and civilized domestic items

mexican art after the revolution

- revolution lasted from 1910 to 1920
- led to democratic reforms
 - communal land ownership
 - public education and healthcare
- public art served a powerful purpose during and after the revolution
- the two fridas, frida kahlo
 - frida painted many self portraits
 - this one has two of her
 - the left one in a white dress representing european identity

- the right one wearing a tehuana skirt that reflects oacacan identity
- they have exposed chest cavities and hearts
 - the two connected by an artery
- the one on the left holds scissors next to a cut artery, spilling blood onto her dress
- the gore in this could represent the contradictions of a mixed cultural identity
- also represents the pain she felt from a recent divorce from diego rivera