

Ch 62 pp. 1007, from "Observing the Passing Scene" to end,

Observing the passing scene

- flaneur/flaneuse
 - a modern sophisticated person who strolls the streets of the city observing the sights and sounds, then they go home and turn it into art or writing
 - maybe the most important part is that they have time to do this
- edgar degas
 - a flaneur
 - went to things like horse races and ballet, then painted quick scenes of these events
 - influenced by photography
 - as photography evolved, people started taking their own random photos without people posing first
 - known as candid photographs
- cab accident, high holborn, london, photo by paul martin
 - paul martin took photos on the streets of london
 - he concealed his camera
 - the photo is literally just a snapshot of the aftermath of a cab accident
 - the people in the photo aren't perfectly framed, not even looking at the camera
 - there are people who are halfway in the frame

impressionism

- artists in paris created their own exhibitions instead of submitting their work to the state sponsored salon
- the impressionist exhibitions were somewhat more inclusive to women
- impressionist artists often painted things as snapshots of action scenes
- they used light colored undercoats for their paintings instead of dark ones
 - this made the colors seem to pop more, and made the whole image brighter
- another thing they would do is actually paint at the scene of the painting, really quick
 - this was made possible by canned paints in tubes and portable easels
 - they developed different techniques of painting lighting and getting the colors right
 - because the scene was ever changing, they had to do it quicker
- summer's day, berthe morisot
 - painting shows two women sitting in a rowboat on a lake in a park
 - painted it while sitting in the boat with her models
 - quick brushstrokes, not much detail in pure resolution
 - though there are still many small things and details happening

the rise of art criticism in europe

- the rise of critics critiquing art
- they wrote sections for pamphlets and newspapers

- both interpreting and describing art
- they also make judgements on the art with reasons to support their opinions
- critics views on what art is:
 - theophile gautier (french)
 - "art for art's sake"
 - means that art exists for the pleasure of the viewer, it does not need to have any other purpose.
 - leo tolstoy (russian)
 - had the opposite view, argued that art had improve society by conveying moral values
 - john ruskin (english)
 - believed that art reflects the culture and society that it came from
 - favored hand craftsmanship over mass production

independent approaches

- artists in europe and north america started to do their own things individually, instead of one style being "correct"
- the banjo lesson, henry ossawa tanner
 - shows a man teaching a boy how to play a banjo
 - he painted it in his studio, and imagined the scene himself
 - two kinds of light, blue daylight and orange or yellow candlelight
 - shows human connection between the man and the boy
- nocturne in black and gold -- the falling rocket, james abbott mcneill whistler
 - whistler believed in "art for art's sake"
 - he was part of the aesthetic movement
 - the painting shows fireworks against a night sky
 - he used thinned paint to create the water
 - small spots of bright colors represent the fireworks

AND Ch 63: Avant-Garde Art in Europe

neo-impressionism

- the final impressionist exhibition took place in 1886
- a sunday on la grande jatte, georges seurat
 - depicts a public park in paris
 - figures facing towards the river on the left
 - pointillism
 - he paid attention to modern scientific discoveries of how the eye interperets light and color
 - painting is made up of a lot of small dots, with larger sections of solid color behing them
- the port of st. tropez, paul signac (project bookmark)
 - bright pastel colors
 - less realistic, more expressive
- neo-impressionism was relatively short lived

post-impressionism

- named by the critic roger fry
- embraced the bright colors of impressionism but without the goal of recording momentary effects of light
- the basket of apples, paul cezanne
 - still life
 - painting shows apples in a basket, spilled out onto a table, with a bottle and a plate of neatly stacked bread
 - vibrant colors, and light background makes this post-impressionist
 - the painting does not keep one perspective from a single point
 - as that is not how we see the world
- the starry night, vincent van gogh
 - van gogh worked in art galleries until he was fired, then tried a career as a teacher, then a lay preacher, before turning to art
 - he was poor, his brother theo sent him money and encouragement
 - painting has bright colors, contrast, very expressive

engaging the imagination

- abstract art
- and that eyes without heads, odilon redon (project bookmark)
 - shows "half formed creatures"
 - things with heads, eyes, and mouths, and no bodies
- vision after the sermon, paul gauguin
 - two people in the upper right of the painting are wrestling
 - on a bright red floor
 - one of these people has wings
 - they are surrounded by women with their hands together praying
 - gauguin painted this scene reimagined from a bible story about jacob wrestling with an angel

psychological self awareness

- meet james ensor
- artists started expressing their understandings of the human mind
- the scream, edvard munch
 - munch was morbidly preoccupied with death as a child
 - he created different versions of the scream in different media
 - shows a person holding their head and screaming
 - the sky is red and orange, with wavy lines of mixed colors, including some blue spots

terms

- candid photo - a picture taken randomly without the subjects being posed or prepared
- plein air painting - painting in natural light instead of studio light
- pointillism - applying small dabs or dots of color
- impasto - the texture produced by paint that is applied very thickly
- cloisonnism - post-impressionist style where flat forms are painted in bold colors, separated by flat contours