

EPISODES

TRAVELLING IN TIME THROUGH ART

History is remembered by it's art,
not it's war machines.

-James Rosenquist

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*Unfolding episodes caught
in the frames of time in the eras gone by.
Presenting this expression through
the amalgamation of art.*

Columbus led his three ships - the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria - out of the Spanish port of Palos on August 3, 1492. His objective was to sail west until he reached Asia (the Indies) where the riches of gold, pearls and spice awaited. His first stop was the Canary Islands where the lack of wind left his expedition becalmed until September 6. The explorer made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain: in 1492, 1493, 1498 and 1502. He was determined to find a direct water route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. Instead, he accidentally stumbled upon the Americas. Though he did not really "discover" the New World—millions of people already lived there—his journeys marked the beginning of centuries of transatlantic conquest and colonization. However, his journey kicked off centuries of exploration and exploitation on the American continents. The consequences of his explorations were severe for the native populations of the areas he and the conquistadores conquered. Disease and environmental changes resulted in the destruction of the majority of the native population over time, while Europeans continued to extract natural resources from these territories.

Contemporary Realism emerged out of New York in direct defiance to the prevailing popularity of Abstract Expressionism. Yet these new artists, proficient in modern art, employed this mission in a decidedly fresh fashion that built upon tradition while incorporating a contemporary sophistication and techniques in line with the current times. Many of the movement's artists came from an earlier inclusion in the Abstract Expressionist movement. Even as they eschewed its principles, they did adapt many of its techniques such as a similar use of brushwork, flatness, the use of large canvas, and innovative color and composition.

Columbus Discovers America & Contemporary Realism



A
MAP of the
WORLD
from the best
AUTHORITIES.





Minimalism, Industrial Revolution 1700's
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Industrial Revolution & Minimalism

The Industrial Revolution, which took place from the 18th to 19th centuries, was a period during which predominantly agrarian, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban. Although used earlier by French writers, the term Industrial Revolution was first used by the English economic historian Arnold Toynbee (1852–83) to describe Britain's economic development from 1760 to 1840. The development of the spinning machine by Sir Richard Arkwright in England led directly to the rise of the Industrial Revolution, and a new world of manufactured products. Industrialisation marked a shift to powered, special purposed machinery, factories and production. This revolution mainly consists of technological, socio-economic and cultural features. It marked the starting point of the adaptation and evolution of new methods and techniques. The thought behind this artwork was to show the complete opposite of everything this avant garde event stood for, thereby capturing it in a Minimalist way.

Minimalism is a kind of abstract art where artists avoided using emotional and personal content, and paid more weightage on delivering the materiality and simplicity of sculptures in their works. This form of art drifts away from the idea of Abstract expressionism (also known as Action painting; where artists seemed to express their personal emotions through art). Minimalism emerged in New York in the early 1960s among artists who were self-consciously renouncing recent art they thought had become outdated. A wave of new influences and rediscovered styles led younger artists to create new art forms beyond conventional boundaries between various media. The Constructivist approach led to the use of modular fabrication and industrial materials in preference to the craft techniques of traditional sculpture, just like the Industrial revolution. Minimalist art is more democratic and evolutionary.

A world's fair or world's exposition is a large international exhibition designed to showcase achievements of nations. The 1893 World's Fair officially known as the World's Columbian Exposition to honour the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus landing in North America was the fair to end all fairs. It was the fifteenth such exposition in the world, and only the second in the United States. Like others before it, the 1893 World's Fair was where inventors from around the world could show off countless new gadgets. But Chicago stands out for the tremendous breadth of its offerings, including primitive fax machines, new telephones, an electric railway, neon lights, and electric belts claiming to cure any number of ailments. The 20th century was just on the horizon, and people swarmed to Chicago to see what was in store. The Ferris Wheel made its debut at the Midway of the 1893 Fair. It was supposed to rival the Eiffel Tower, which was the centre piece of the Paris Exposition of 1889. But needless to say, it didn't quite have the same staying power.

It was a little after this time when the art scene wagon the precipice of major abstraction. Artists have been intrigued by the nature of perception and optical effects and illusions for many centuries. They have often been a central concern of art, just as much as themes drawn from history or literature. But in the 1950s these preoccupations, allied to new interests in technology and psychology, blossomed into a movement. Op, or Optical art typically employs abstract patterns composed with a stark contrast of foreground and background - from anamorphosis, the effect by which images are contorted so that objects are only fully recognizable when viewed from an oblique angle. Or, equally, Op may simply be a child of modern decoration.

Chicago Worlds Fair & Optical Art

1893



1492

1700's

1933

WORLD'S FAIR MAY 27TH NOV. 1ST



1893 A CENTURY OF PROGRESS 1993



Surrealism, The Rise Of Hitler, Germany 1933
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte

1700's

1893

1945

1933

The Rise Of Hitler & Surrealism

In every past art movement there have always been needs for change, a need to develop. The Second World War bore witness to some of the most horrific and extreme crimes against humanity. The people of the time needed something that would allow them to deal with such utterly heinous events. The world ultimately required a way of working that would allow the people of the time to subconsciously process and internalise their thoughts and feelings, to express pain, grief, sorrow and utter bewilderment concerning the events that had happened in Nazi Germany. From this beginning, the Surrealist movement was born. During the time after the war, people were left questioning humanity and our perceptions of how innocent we truly are. The Second World War above all else, showed humanity its darker side in all its horrific and gruesome glory. Such horror cannot always be dealt with in a conscious and rational way and therefore Surrealism was created as a means to partly exploring this with its shocking, provocative imagery.

Although we are still left questioning "Are we all capable of such brutality and cold bloodedness?" The war did not only change the art world it changed everything; the social catalyst altered our perceptions of not only what humans were capable of. Surrealism acted as a medium to express and understand the atrocities that took place during World War II, artists during the time had to understand the danger of new technologies such as the first creation and use of an atomic bomb known as 'little boy'.

This new technology obliterated entire cities, blinded, burn and killed millions and the rest of the world was left to comprehend what humans and technology can truly do to each other. As artists we must explore our world and during the time of a crisis such as war it becomes increasingly more important because if we forget where we have been, what we have done? In the words of the great philosopher Santayana "*Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.*"

Dada emerged amid the brutality of World War I (1914–18) a conflict that claimed the lives of eight million military personnel and an estimated equal number of civilians. This unprecedented loss of human life was a result of trench warfare and technological advances in weaponry, communications, and transportation systems. Dada was the first conceptual art movement where the focus of the artists was not on crafting aesthetically pleasing objects but on making works that often upended bourgeois sensibilities and that generated difficult questions about society, the role of the artist, and the purpose of art. By the dawn of World War II, many of the European Dadaists who remained had fled or been forced into exile in the United States, some died in death camps under Hitler, who personally disliked the kind of radical art that dada represented.

On August 6, 1945, during World War II (1939–45), an American B-29 bomber dropped the world's first deployed atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The explosion wiped out 90 percent of the city and immediately killed 80,000 people; tens of thousands more would later die of radiation exposure. Three days later, a second B-29 dropped another A-bomb on Nagasaki, killing an estimated 40,000 people. Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced his country's unconditional surrender in World War II in a radio address on August 15, citing the devastating power of "a new and most cruel bomb."

Hiroshima - Nagasaki & Dadaism

1945





Dadaism, Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb 1945
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Pop Art, Hippie Revolution 1960's
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Hippie Movement & Pop Art

The Hippie Movement began in the 1960s, a time where the youth started questioning social values and experimentation then became the new social label and norm. The counterculture started as a youth movement and their ideas on all things political, social, cultural and every day values were much different than what American citizens had enlightened upon. The hippies started out mainly in San Francisco and in the East Village of New York City and were focused more on the cultural values in life, and created the famous 'Make Love, Not War' slogan. The way the hippies dressed were out of the social norm. They would wear ripped jeans, peace signs, flowers, and anything tie-dye. Also physically, hippies who were men usually had very long hair and beards. Rock and roll became the new hype and sex and drugs like marijuana and LSD was a huge part of the movement as well. This revolution led to the birth of a new social genre altogether. The appearance and perspectives of these Hippie's was what made them stand out in society.

"Pop" was a term first applied to popular culture rather than to art, but it was one of the goals of the Pop art movement to blur the boundaries between 'high' art and 'low' popular culture. Pop Art was one of the United States' major artistic movements of the 20th century. It actually was first coined in Britain in 1955 but unsurprisingly the Americans took up the consumerist cause with much greater effect and conviction, and became the pioneers of the movement. Pop art attempted to break down the barriers between high (old-fashioned) art and contemporary culture. It emphasized the kitschy elements of popular culture as a protest against the elitist art culture and the seriousness that surrounded it. It marked a return to sharp paintwork and representational art. It glorified unappreciated objects and ordinary business. In doing so, it aimed to make art more meaningful for everyday people and came to target a broad audience. Pop Art made its way to the United States in the 1960s with the help of ground-breakers Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg.

Marilyn Monroe's real name was Norma Jean Mortenson. She was a popular actress, but she was also known for her sharp looks, style, as a sex symbol, and for her intellect. When she began establishing her career in the entertainment industry, she was encouraged to change her personal appearance into what we recognize her as today, including her signature platinum blonde hair. Besides her appearance, Marilyn Monroe was also forced to pretend who she was by hiding her intelligence and interests, and showing her 'dumb blonde' persona to the world through her filming career. Eventually, she was separated into who she truly was, Norma Jean, and who she was made into, Marilyn Monroe. It transformed into a contradiction of two worlds in one body. The life and death of Marilyn Monroe is a major controversy that needs to be broken down bit by bit and what better way to do this than represent her legacy through stylistic cubism?

Cubism can date back to about 1908 under the twin aegis of Picasso and Braque. Cubism was based on the interlocking of various perspectives and shapes and objects by exploring open forms and enabling piercing objects and figures flow through them. Further it ensures the blending of the foreground with the background. Analytic Cubism portrayed the changing phases of space, movement and time in the modern world. Synthetic cubism dealt with abstract signs. Cubists paintings consist of emotional and non rational elements that consist in a process analytical abstraction of several planes of an object to represent a synthetic, simultaneous view of it. It brought about the unity of a depicted scene and the surface of the canvas.

Marilyn Monroe & Cubism

1962



1946

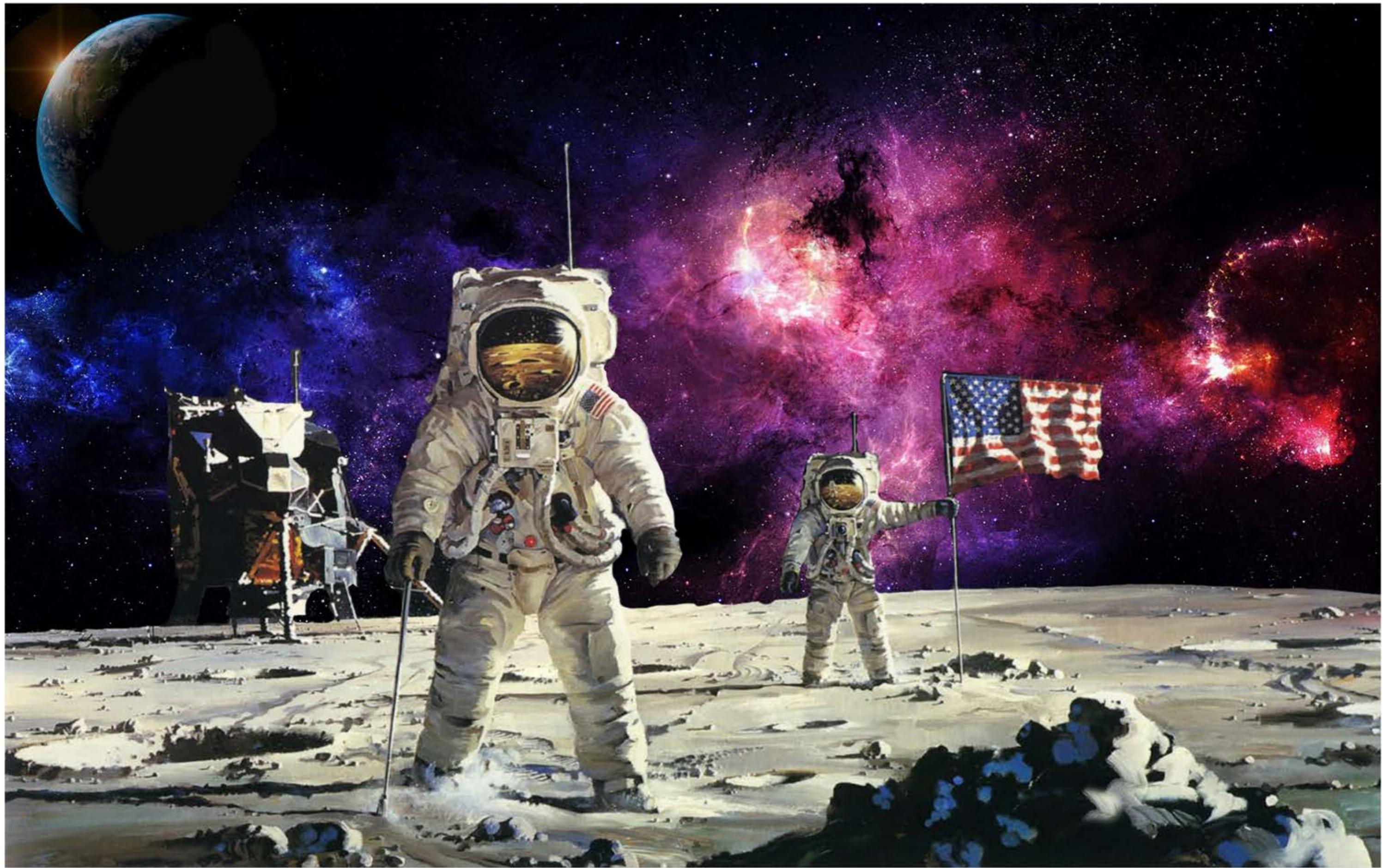
1960's

1969



Cubism, Marilyn Monroe 1962
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Photorealism, Apollo 11 Moon Landing 1969
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Apollo 11 Moon Landing & Photorealism

On July 20, 1969, American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans ever to land on the moon. Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon, as he took his first step, he famously said, "*That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.*" The Apollo 11 mission occurred eight years after President John Kennedy announced a national goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s. In addition to leaving the American flag on the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin left their backpacks, a gold olive-branch-shaped pin symbolizing peace, messages from 73 world leaders and a patch from the Apollo 1 mission that never launched and killed three U.S. astronauts in a 1967 training exercise. They also left behind medallions honoring Russian cosmonauts, including Vladimir Komarov and Yuri Gagarin, both of whom died in flight in 1967 and 1968, respectively. But the question still lies, *Was it real? Was it staged?* and from this, comes its depiction through Photorealism, hyperrealistically.

The name Photorealism, also known as Hyperrealism or Super-realism was coined in reference to those artists whose work depended heavily on photographs, which they often projected onto canvas allowing images to be replicated with precision and accuracy. The exactness was often aided further by the use of an airbrush, which was originally designed to retouch photographs. The movement came about within the same period and context as Conceptual art, Pop Art, and Minimalism and expressed a strong interest in realism in art, over that of idealism and abstraction. To a degree not previously accomplished, Photorealism complicates the notion of realism by successfully mixing together that which is real with that which is unreal. While the image on the canvas is recognizable and carefully delineated to suggest that it is accurate, the artist often based their work upon photographs rather than through direct observation.

The psychedelic movement began in the mid 1960's and had an effect, not just on music, but also on many aspects of Pop Culture. The name "psychedelic" refers to drugs that were popular with the youth culture of the time. Posters for rock concerts tried to visually express the feeling of tripping out. Americans in the 1960s and 70s addressed many controversial issues from civil rights, the Vietnam War, nuclear proliferation, and the environment to drug use, sexual freedom, and nonconformity, spiritual experiences through Eastern Mysticism and psychedelic drugs. Music festivals and concerts were a prominent feature of the 60s landscape, and musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead, The Who, Janice Joplin were the super-stars of the day. A unique artform found expression in band posters and album covers. Events including the 1967 Summer of Love and the 1969 Woodstock Festival, becoming an international musical movement associated with a widespread counterculture. Woodstock was the pop culture music event of the decade and arguably to this day the single most profound event in the history of music. Acts from all around the world met at Max Yasgur's Farm in Bethel, NY on August 15-18, 1969 for a celebration of peace and music. What began as a paid event drew so many viewers from across the world that the fences were torn down and it became a free concert open to the public. 500,000 youthful individuals gathered peacefully at Woodstock 1969 creating the largest gathering of human beings in one place in history. Woodstock 1969 defined an entire generation and its effects on music and American culture can still be felt today. Art and visual displays were inspired by psychedelic experiences and hallucinations known to follow the ingestion of psychoactive drugs such as LSD and psilocybin and has intricate details with many colors, often crazy, or mysterious. It draws from different influences tribal, or kinetic with optical illusions, and embraces a wider spectrum of surrealism. But at the heart of it is the expression of the spirit.



Woodstock Festival The Jimi Hendrix Experience & Psychedelic Art

1969

1977



Psychedelic Art, Woodstock Festival (The Jimi Hendrix Experience) 1969
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



De Stijl, Charlie Chaplin 1889 - 1977
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Charlie Chaplin & De Stijl

Charlie Chaplin was one of the greatest and widely loved silent movie stars. His humour, clumsy acrobatics and subtlety of his acting are what made him famous. While Harold Lloyd played the daredevil, hanging from clocks, and Buster Keaton manoeuvred through surreal and complex situations, Chaplin was more focused on improvisation. For Chaplin, the best way to locate the humour or tragedy of a situation was to create an environment and walk around it until something natural and real happened. In early theater and film, the concern was to simply keep the audience's attention through overdramatic acting that exaggerated emotions, but Chaplin discovered an opportunity to control the environment enough to allow subtlety and simplicity to come through in his films. He was best known for his black and white silent movies, the world rarely saw him in color. Hence, my motive for this particular artwork is '*Bringing color to Chaplin's Life*'. De Stijl, because of its bold, colorful nature perfectly portrays my thoughts.

The Netherlands-based De Stijl movement embraced an abstract, pared-down aesthetic centered in basic visual elements. Among the pioneering exponents of abstract art, De Stijl artists portrayed a visual language consisting of precisely rendered geometric forms, usually straight lines, squares, and rectangles and primary colors. De Stijl's influence was significant in the realm of architecture, helping give rise to the International Style of the 1920s and 1930s. Expressing the artist's search for the universal, so as to let the individual from losing its significance, it utilises an austere language that is meant to reveal the natural laws and harmony in the world around a person. Even though De Stijl artists created work embodying the movement's utopian vision, their realization that this vision was unattainable in the real world essentially brought about the group's demise. Ultimately, De Stijl's continuing fame is largely the result of the enduring achievement of its best-known member and true modern master, Piet Mondrian.

Erected in the dead of night on August 13, 1961, the Berlin Wall (known as Berliner Mauer in German) was a physical division between West Berlin and East Germany. Its purpose was to keep disaffected East Germans from fleeing to the West. When the Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989, its destruction was nearly as instantaneous as its creation. For 28 years, the Berlin Wall was represented as a symbol of the Cold War and the iron curtain between Soviet-led Communism and the democracies of the West. In the 1980s, the wall was reconstructed and made 14 feet tall. Graffiting on the wall became popular for artists from all over the world and a place where tourists would go and admire the artwork. The West Berlin side of the wall had artwork completely covering the wall, while the East Berlin side was kept blank because people were not permitted to get close enough to the eastside of the wall to paint anything. There was an impromptu and massive celebration along the Berlin Wall, with people hugging, kissing, singing, cheering, and crying. After the Berlin Wall came down, east and west Germany reunited into a single German state on October 3, 1990. The fall of the Berlin wall, not only brought about changes in Germany, but significantly influenced matters globally.

Digital art is the study of the nature and appreciative grounds of all kinds of art whose production and presentation crucially involves computer processing. Lillian F. Schwartz initiated the use of different types of computers and original peripherals in art, animation, optical, effects, kinetics, perception, and analysis. She branched into art, archaeological analyses and electronic restoration. Meanwhile, Digital Art differs from other arts in the elements of instruction. Such as words in language art, colors and kinds of stone in formative art, and body in performance art. Thierry Noir was the first to daub the ultimate symbol of communist repression with cartoonish graffiti on the Berlin Wall and his creations became world famous.



Fall Of The Berlin Wall & Digital Art



Digital Art, Fall Of The Berlin Wall 1989
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



Contemporary Art, Bombing of the Twin Towers, New York 2001
Artwork curated by Pratika Poorswani

Medium : Photo Manipulation on Photoshop
11 x 16", Printed on Matte



9/11 Twin Towers & Contemporary Art

On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors. It immediately became clear that America was under attack and it was the deadliest day in history for New York City firefighters.

Contemporary art is defined as any art made in the late 20th and early 21st century, following the modern and post modern art movements. Artwork from this category spans all genres, from painting and film to sculpture and everything in between. Artists began breaking the boundary that was predetermined by individuals other than themselves. They began to focus on the exploration of concepts like social and global issues. Abundant subject matters are always available with a number of stories making headlines from around the world. Contemporary art is not just limited to only art with a message, but it experiments with different materials and ways of seeing art, the functionality of art developed with the move away from the narrative, characteristic of the traditional arts, towards abstraction. This enabled the shift not only from non-figuration, but also influenced the approach to real life, social issues and images of modern life.



Notes



