

Glossary of terms -Art Movements

Abstract Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect

Abstract Expressionism American art movement of the 1940s that emphasized form and colour within a nonrepresentational framework. Jackson Pollock initiated the revolutionary technique of splattering the paint directly on canvas to achieve the subconscious interpretation of the artist's inner vision of reality.

Aesthetic Aesthetics is the branch of philosophy that is concerned with the nature of beauty and taste

Animation Animation is the rapid display of sequences of static imagery in such a way as to create the illusion of movement

Appropriation Appropriation in art and art history refers to the practice of artists using pre-existing objects or images in their art with little transformation of the original

Art Deco Art deco is a design style from the 1920s and 1930s in furniture, decorative arts and architecture characterised by its geometric character

Art Nouveau An 1890s style in architecture, graphic arts, and interior decoration characterized by writhing forms, curving lines, and asymmetrical organization. Some critics regard the style as the first stage of modern architecture.

Assemblage (Collage) Forms of modern sculpture and painting utilizing ready-mades, found objects, and pasted fragments to form an abstract composition. Louise Nevelson's boxlike enclosures, each with its own composition of assembled objects, illustrate the style in sculpture. Pablo Picasso developed the technique of cutting and pasting natural or manufactured materials to a painted or unpainted surface.

Avant-Garde As applied to art, avant-garde means art that is innovatory, introducing or exploring new forms or subject matter

Baroque European art and architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries. Giovanni Bernini, a major exponent of the style, believed in the union of the arts of architecture, painting, and sculpture to overwhelm the spectator with ornate and highly dramatized themes. Although the style originated in Rome as the instrument of the Church, it spread throughout Europe in such monumental creations as the Palace of Versailles.

Black or African-American Art The work of American artists of African descent produced in various styles characterized by a mood of protest and a search for identity and historical roots.

Classicism A form of art derived from the study of Greek and Roman styles characterized by harmony, balance, and serenity. In contrast, the Romantic Movement gave free rein to the artist's imagination and to the love of the exotic.

Constructivism A form of sculpture using wood, metal, glass, and modern industrial materials expressing the technological society. The mobiles of Alexander Calder are examples of the movement.

Contemporary Art The term contemporary art is loosely used to refer to art of the present day and of the relatively recent past, of an innovative or avant-garde nature

Cubism Early 20th-century French movement marked by a revolutionary departure from representational art. Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque penetrated the surface of objects, stressing basic abstract geometric forms that presented the object from many angles simultaneously.

Dada A product of the turbulent and cynical post-World War I period, this anti-art movement extolled the irrational, the absurd, the nihilistic, and the nonsensical. The reproduction of Mona Lisa adorned with a moustache is a famous example. The movement is regarded as a precursor of Surrealism. Some critics regard HAPPENINGS as a recent development of Dada. This movement incorporates environment and spectators as active and important ingredients in the production of random events.

Expressionism A 20th-century European art movement that stresses the expression of emotion and the inner vision of the artist rather than the exact representation of nature. Distorted lines and shapes and exaggerated colours are used for emotional impact. Vincent Van Gogh is regarded as the precursor of this movement.

Fauvism The name was given to the group of early 20th-century French painters because their work was characterized by distortion and violent colours. Henri Matisse and Georges Rouault were leaders of this group.

Futurism This early 20th-century movement originating in Italy glorified the machine age and attempted to represent machines and figures in motion. The aesthetics of Futurism affirmed the beauty of technological society.

Genre This French word now refers to paintings that depict scenes of everyday life without any attempt at idealization. Genre paintings can be found in all ages, but the Dutch productions of peasant and tavern scenes are typical.

Impressionism Late 19th-century French school dedicated to defining transitory visual impressions painted directly from nature, with light and colour of primary importance. If the atmosphere changed, a totally different picture would emerge. It was not the object or event that counted but the visual impression as caught at a certain time of day under a certain light. Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro were leaders of the movement.

Installation Art The term installation art is used to describe large-scale, mixed-media constructions, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time

Neoclassicism An 18th-century reaction to the excesses of Baroque and Rococo, this European art movement tried to recreate the art of Greece and Rome by imitating the ancient classics both in style and subject matter.

Neo-impressionism A school of painting associated with George Seurat and his followers in late 19th-century France that sought to make Impressionism more precise and formal. They employed a

technique of juxtaposing dots of primary colours to achieve brighter secondary colours, with the mixture left to the eye to complete (pointillism).

Op Art The 1960s movement known as Optical Painting is characterized by geometrical forms that create an optical illusion in which the eye is required to blend the colours at a certain distance.

Pop Art In this return to representational art, the artist returns to the world of tangible objects in a reaction against abstraction. Materials are drawn from the everyday world of popular culture comic strips, canned goods, and science fiction.

Realism A development in mid-19th-century France led by Gustave Courbet. Its aim was to depict the customs, ideas, and appearances of the time using scenes from everyday life.

Rococo A French style of interior decoration developed during the reign of Louis XV consisting mainly of asymmetrical arrangements of curves in panelling, porcelain, and gold and silver objects. The characteristics of ornate curves, prettiness, and gaiety can also be found in the painting and sculpture of the period.

Surrealism A further development of Collage, Cubism, and Dada, this 20th-century movement stresses the weird, the fantastic, and the dreamworld of the subconscious.

Symbolism As part of a general European movement in the latter part of the 19th century, it was closely allied with Symbolism in literature. It marked a turning away from painting by observation to transforming fact into a symbol of inner experience. Gauguin was an early practitioner.