

ART^{IN}SIGHT

Art Timeline

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1. Welcome Page



Montmartre, 1889

Childe Hassam, American

(1859-1935)

Oil on canvas

15 1/2 inches H; 17 3/8 inches W

Elizabeth Ball Collection; Gift of
the George and Francis Ball

Foundation

1995.036.012

About the Timeline:

The timeline above provides objects representative of art styles you may see or hear about in class or a museum. Click on any of the thumbnails to access historical and artistic information about objects from BSU Museum of Art. Objects are presented in chronological order.

While art styles are assigned to general spans of time for educational purposes, in reality styles are fluid and not always restricted to a specific time period.

About the Map:

This map will stay with you throughout your timeline journey. Countries or regions are highlighted to indicate the origin of each object.

2. Egyptian Art (c. 3000 BCE – 350 BCE)



Model of a Boat, 1991/1783 BCE

(12th Dynasty, Middle Kingdom)

Unidentified Maker, Egypt

Cedar and pigment

19 1/4 inches H; 7 1/2 inches W; 36 inches D

Gift of Edmund F. and Frances Petty

1981.035.000a-d

“Man fears time, time fears the pyramids,” wrote the Greek historian Herodotus about Ancient Egypt. Indeed, the art of Ancient Egypt endures today. The spectacular monuments and sculptures of Egypt built out of granite and rock seem everlasting themselves. Concerned with immortality, Egyptian culture was centered on death and the afterlife. The Ancient Egyptians made art for their gods and goddesses, monarchs, and the dead for their journey to the afterlife. The Egyptians wanted to ensure that their family members and loved ones were provided for in the afterlife.

Tombs in Egypt were elaborately decorated with hieroglyphics carved and painted onto the walls. Statues, pottery, jewelry, and paintings were also used to decorate the insides of tombs. Sometimes wealthy Egyptians had models of everyday objects placed inside their tombs because they believed these things would be useful in the afterlife. Small models of food, vessels, people, weapons, and boats have been found in Egyptian tombs. The two most common types of models found are those of water bearers and boats. Models of boats represent the transportation and protection of the deceased across the Nile River and into the afterlife. Can you tell from the image which figure is the deceased Egyptian traveling into the afterlife?

Fact: The style of Egyptian art stayed relatively consistent for more than 3,000 years.



World Events:

2560 BCE The Great Pyramid of Giza is built in Egypt.

2000 BCE Stonehenge is erected on Salisbury Plain, England.

384-322 BCE The Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle lives.

28-75 CE Buddhism is established in China and becomes a major world religion.

30 CE Jesus dies and Christianity emerges.

3. Greek Art (c. 900 BCE – 30 BCE)



Funerary Hydria, 350/300 BCE

Unidentified Maker, Greek: Follower
of the Varrese Painters

Earthenware with red-figure slip

25 inches H; 18 inches W; 14 inches D

Gift of the Ball State University

Foundation

1995.015.000

Greek art and ideas are so
interwoven in Western culture that
we often do not realize they were
conceived almost 3,000 years ago.

Nude figures, idealized human
forms, and classical architecture
originated in ancient Greece.

However, the Greeks gave credit

where credit was due when borrowing ideas and skills from earlier civilizations, including the Egyptians. Myths, athletic competitions, symposiums, idealized nude figures, funerals, and religious ceremonies were depicted in ancient Greek art as a way of celebrating humanity.

The *Funerary Hydria* is a vessel used to hold and carry water or wine. This vessel would have been placed inside the tomb or on the grave of a deceased person. Only women were depicted on hydria-shaped vessels, since they were the water-carriers in ancient Greece. This type of vessel was painted in the red figure technique, which was developed in Athens between 700-600 BCE. This means that the decorator of this vase covered the background in black slip (a

water and clay mixture used on pottery) and then filled in details of the figures' faces and clothes. The figures retained the color of the clay to portray their skin. Potters and painters usually signed these objects, and patrons' names were sometimes included as well.

The deceased woman is depicted on the front of this hydria. She is seated and holding an open box. Her maid stands before her holding a ribbon. The women on the sides represent visitors to the grave of the deceased. They carry gifts to leave at the tomb, such as wreaths, a fan, a box, and more ribbons. Why do you think these objects would have been important or symbolic to this woman? How is this practice similar to the way we decorate the graves of loved ones today?

Fact: This vase was made in Taranto, an Italian colony of Ancient Greece. Today, Taranto is the base of the Italian navy.



World Events:

2560 BCE The Great Pyramid of Giza is built in Egypt.

384-322 BCE The Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle lives.

356-323 BCE Alexander the Great of Greece lives.

28-75 CE Buddhism is established in China and becomes a major world religion.

30 CE Jesus dies and Christianity emerges.

4. Roman Art (c. 500 BCE – 400 CE)



Head of a Woman, 95/99 CE

Unidentified Maker, Roman

Marble

11 inches H

Gift of the George and Frances Ball

Foundation

1937.501.001

With the rise of Rome, the Western world saw the largest empire yet. The multicultural society of the Roman Empire is, of all the ancient civilizations, the one that most resembles today's world. Some similarities can be seen in our global perspective, roadways, and the United States'

judicial system. Roman art and architecture spread throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The Romans initially imitated the Greeks in many genres of art, but eventually they developed their own distinctive style. For example, Roman sculpture focused on the realistic aspects of a person's appearance, whereas the earlier Greeks had focused on the idealized human form.

During the first century CE, a golden age for the women of Rome began. They were given considerable freedom compared to other ancient cultures. Women managed their

households and children, and wealthier women accompanied their husbands to social events. Hairstyles and adornments were not just fashion statements; they also conveyed social and political messages, which revealed status.

This bust of an upper class woman shows delicate curls arranged in a complicated hairstyle, which was popular at the time. Hairstyles became so elaborate during this time that ancient writers ridiculed Roman women who spent hours with their hairdressers trying to get the desired hairstyle. Some scholars also believe that some women wore wigs to achieve the desired effect.

Imagine how much time a hairstyle like this would have taken to arrange. How do we style our hair and adorn ourselves differently today?

Fact: Scholars often use fashion trends depicted on ancient Roman coins as a comparison for dating portrait sculptures.



World Events:

384-322 BCE The Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle lives.

356-323 BCE Alexander the Great of Greece lives.

44 BCE Julius Caesar assassinated in Rome.

30 CE Jesus dies and Christianity emerges.

79 CE Pompeii and Herculaneum are destroyed in Italy by Mt. Vesuvius' eruption.

5. China



Tomb Doors, 202 BCE -220 CE

Unidentified Maker, Chinese

(Han Dynasty)

Stone and pigment

46 3/4 inches H; 19 11/16 inches

W; 1 5/8 inches D

Gift of Alconda-Owsley

Foundation

1997.028.000a-b

The Han Dynasty
(202 BCE - 220 CE) was a
golden age for China, and
the prosperity enjoyed
during this time was
reflected in Chinese

technology and art. The Han Dynasty ran successfully for more than four centuries and was comparable in power and size to the Roman Empire. Important technologies, such as papermaking and the beginnings of the Silk Road, characterized The Han Dynasty. The fortifications that would later be the Great Wall were also built.

Art proliferates in stable and prosperous societies like the one established by the Han Dynasty. Chinese people used low relief sculptures and paint to decorate tombs. Stone panels, such as these seen here were used to mark tomb entrances.

The sculptures carved into these doors are Chinese directional animals, which are the same ones used to represent the zodiac. On top is the Red Bird of the South, which symbolizes

luck, happiness, virtue, grace, and heaven's favor. The two sculptures in the middle represent a mask. The Green Dragon of the East is depicted on the lower right. Dragons were believed to bring good luck. On the lower left is the White Tiger of the West, who represents serene strength and power. The White Tiger was often used on soldiers' shields going into battle. If worn on a military uniform, the White Tiger indicated high rank. The use of the White Tiger on these tomb doors means the tomb may have belonged to a military officer or landowner.

Fact: Since Chinese tombs faced south, each animal's placement on the doors corresponded to its respective direction.



World Events:

79 BCE Pompeii mosaics created.

64 CE Rome burns.

132 CE Han Dynasty; First seismoscope for detecting earthquakes invented.

1000 – 1500 Romanesque and Gothic styles seen in Europe.

1271 Marco Polo travels to China.

6. Pre-Columbia



Center Marker from Ball

Court, 900/1299 CE

Unidentified Maker (Mayan
People), Mexico

Rhyolitic volcanic stone

10 inches H

Gift of the Alconda-Owsley
Foundation

1990.031.000

When Spanish
conquistador Fernando
Cortéz returned to Europe
with news of all the glories

of the New World in 1528, he brought with him a group of Mayan athletes. The Spanish court marveled at the exotic ball game Mayans played. Spanish courtiers were particularly interested in the strange bouncing ball. The Mayans used a rubber ball similar to today's medicine balls. In fact, the ancient rubber ball inspired the manufacturers of soccer balls, basketballs, and tennis balls used today.

The game took place on a long narrow court with high walls. Three markers, such as this one, were spaced evenly along the walls. Players worked against gravity, using lower legs, thighs, torsos, and upper arms, to hit the ball up at the markers. The difficulty of the game made for slow scoring, and many ended with only one point scored.

The Mayan game was an essential element to Mayan society, and courts were placed in the heart of the city. As with the United States' love of baseball, the Mayans played for pleasure

and to demonstrate skill. Spectators took part in gambling and teams played aggressively.

Despite the similarities, the ancient Mayan game possessed a much darker side. Players of the Mayan ball game played for their lives.

The game also held religious significance. Players symbolized death and rebirth. The captain of the losing team, often a high-ranking warrior, was sacrificed. Sometimes the loser's decapitated head was used as a ball.

Fact: Pre-Columbian refers to the period before Columbus landed in the Americas and the subsequent spread of European influence on the North, Central, and South American peoples. Art held significant importance in these tribal societies. The makers believed the objects they made had the power to appease the gods and save their tribes from disaster.



World Events:

900 CE Mayan civilization collapses.

1271 Marco Polo travels to China.

1325 The Aztec civilization founds Tenochtitlan, modern day Mexico City.

1438 The Incan empire in Peru begins.

1492 Columbus discovers America.

7. India



Shiva and Parvati,

1200/1299 CE

Unidentified Maker, India

(Chola Period)

Copper alloy

15 inches H; 12 1/4 inches W;

6 inches D

Museum purchase in honor of

David T. Owsley

2005.011.000

The art of India is influenced by religion and philosophy. India is a country in which three

of the world's major religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, are practiced, which influences the art of the region. This Hindu sculpture depicts the god Shiva and his companion or consort, Parvati, dancing. Shiva, a major deity in Hindu religion, is the god of both destruction and rejuvenation. When Shiva and Parvati are shown together, as in this sculpture, they symbolize the blessing of marital happiness and unity. How does dancing still hold significance and meaning in our lives today?

Although people were able to see representations of their gods as decoration on the outside of religious buildings, sculptures such as the one seen here, were the first sacred artifacts seen by people outside of the temple. Most of the time, they were only seen by the temple priests inside the private, innermost chambers of the temple. However the rings at the bottom of

this object allowed temple priests to carry the sculpture in religious ceremonies. Therefore, the common people were able to see their deities and the deities were able to see their devotees. At all times, the sculpture was elaborately decorated with jewels and flowers, such as marigolds. Priests poured gold infused water and milk over the sculpture to serve as a ritual washing.

Fact: Shiva is often depicted in Hindu art with multiple limbs and a third eye on his forehead to represent his all-seeing and supernatural powers.



World Events:

3000 BCE Hinduism becomes the major religion of India.

118-125 CE The Pantheon is constructed in Rome.

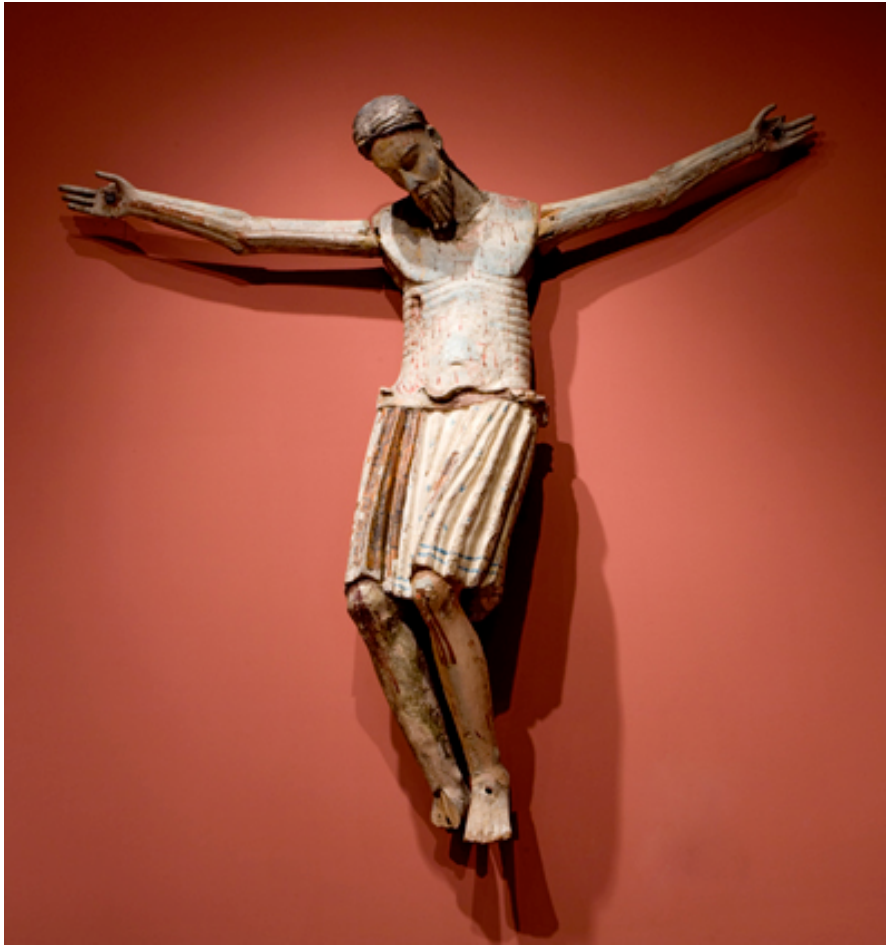
220 CE The Han Dynasty in China comes to an end.

720 CE Islamic Caliphate invades India; Islam practiced in India.

1325 The Aztec civilization founds Tenochtitlan, modern day Mexico City.

1617 British East India Company is given permission to trade in India.

8. Romanesque (c. 1000 CE – 1200 CE)



Christ, 1225/1250

Artist Unknown, Spanish

Wood, Metal, Paint

68 1/2 inches H; 75 1/2 inches

W; 15 1/2 inches D

Given in loving memory of

Lucy Ball Owsley by her son

David T. Owsley

1991.005.000

During the Middle Ages, art focused on glorifying God, and architecture reigned as the most important art form. Since architecture

at this time used Roman elements, it was given the name Romanesque. Romanesque churches were laid out in the shape of a cross, the exterior was relatively plain, and the inside was dark since there were few windows.

Romanesque art portrayed figures differently from the classical styles used in Roman art. While classical figures depicted the human form realistically, Romanesque figures and clothing were more stylized. *Christ* displays characteristics of a Romanesque figure with his feet pointed downward and his arms and legs arranged angularly. Sculpture in-the-round, or sculpture that could be seen from all sides, appeared in the Romanesque period for the first time since the end of the Roman Empire.

Since art was created for the church as a teaching tool, artists and craftsmen remained unknown. This unknown artist carved Christ's torso and legs from one piece of wood, then attached the arms and head with nails. Imagine the challenges of carving this sculpture from a single block of wood.

Christ's anguish and torture, as depicted in this sculpture, was a new trait in art at this time. Before, art depicted Christ as regal, with a crown upon his head and showed him floating in front of the cross instead of nailed to it. During the Middle Ages, meditating on Christ's anguish as portrayed here served an important role among Roman Catholics.

Fact: Originally, this sculpture of *Christ* had a crown of thorns. The blood on this sculpture was added during the 1800s.

World Events:



1163 Construction begins on Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris.

1180-1192 Third Crusade

1280 Eyeglasses are invented in Italy.

1337-1453 One Hundred Years War fought between the French and English.

1347 Black Plague begins in Europe.

9. Gothic Art (c. 1100 CE – 1300 CE)



Processional Cross, 1300/1325

Artist Unknown, Italian

Metal (copper, iron, gilt), wood, paint

26 inches H; 21 inches W; 3 inches D

Purchase: Friends of the Museum

1986.009.000

Gothic art grew out of Romanesque art. Art still held an important teaching purpose, but clergy wanted to make God's glory more tangible. New ideas and money from the community led to architectural changes in the building of churches, such as adding height and windows to the structures. The wide open and brightly lit spaces of these buildings became

symbols of the divine.

Suger, the abbot of the royal Abbey Church of St. Denis, described the rationale underlying Gothic art when he said, "Through the beauty of material things we come to understand God." In order to help individuals better understand God's majesty, ornate and beautiful works of art taught the way to salvation and depicted the glory of God and his creations.

Look closely at the details of the *Processional Cross*. Part of the story has been lost, since one side of the cross previously had an image of Christ crucified. Even so, imagine the

cross covered in gold, sparkling in the sunlight as a priest carries it to and from the front of the church. How would seeing this cross from far away affect your interpretation of it? After the procession the cross sat on the altar in the front of the church. Over time, the brilliant gold surface wore off and exposed the copper beneath.

Fact: Some of the architectural detail of BSU Museum of Art, such as the pointed arch, is reminiscent of Gothic style and is called Collegiate Gothic.



World Events:

1163 Construction begins on Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris.

1180-1192 Third Crusade

1280 Eyeglasses are invented in Italy.

1337-1453 One Hundred Years War fought between the French and English

1347 Black Death begins in Europe.

10. China



Dragon-Form Roof Tiles, 1368-1643 CE

Unidentified Maker, Chinese (Ming Dynasty)

Ceramic

50 1/2 inches H; 30 inches W; 10 3/4 inches D

Gift of Alconda-Owsley Foundation

2001.007.1 and 2001.007.2

Zhu Yuanzhang, an uneducated and poor peasant, founded the Ming dynasty in 1368 CE after forcing the Mongols out of Beijing. While gaining power and creating a following, he found help from scholars. Ironically, when his reign was firmly established, he began to distrust and alienate intellectuals. The dynasty ended in 1644 CE.

The Ming Dynasty made large roof tiles intended to scare away evil spirits. These tiles depicted protective animals, such as dragons. The tiles sat on a ridgeline along a roof. They faced each other and held a ceramic beam in their mouths. Imagine standing in front of a building, looking up, and seeing these magnificent dragons on the highest part of a roof.

These dragon roof tiles originally sat on a temple, and those who entered the temple believed the roof dragons controlled the rain. They believed whenever a dragon would open his mouth, rain fell. This was convenient since these dragons were believed to protect against lightning and fire; therefore if something was on fire, the dragons could make it rain and quench the fire.

Fact: Roof dragons were always in an odd number, and there never were more than eleven.



World Events:

79 BCE Pompeii mosaics created.

64 CE Rome burns.

132 CE Han Dynasty; Invention of first seismoscope for detecting earthquakes.

1000 – 1500 Romanesque and Gothic styles seen in Europe.

1271 Marco Polo travels to China.

11. Italian Renaissance (c. 1400 CE – 1600 CE)



Madonna and Child, 1494

School of Lorenzo di Credi, Italian
(1456-1536)

Oil on wood panel

23 7/8 inches H; 19 3/16 inches W

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William H.

Thompson

1940.015.000

As the Middle Ages drew to a close, Christianity still remained an important part of Renaissance life. The male nude was a common motif most often used in religious context, but the focus on subjects in art turned

from the heavenly to the human.

The Renaissance began with a shift of power from the old aristocratic families towards the wealthier middle class, whose wealth allowed their pursuit of beauty and religiosity through art.

At this time, art was considered a craft learned in workshops and studios where apprentices trained to paint in the style of a master. They learned to use linear perspective, a mathematical technique used to create an illusion of receding space on painting surfaces, giving art more dimensions. This, as well as a shift from a heavenly background to an earthly one, can

be seen in *Madonna and Child*. Notice the natural background behind the Madonna instead of a golden glow often seen in medieval paintings.

As Europeans became increasingly interested in the human and the natural world, themes were often borrowed from Ancient Greece and Rome, such as the anatomically correct male nude as the ideal form. Where else on the timeline do you see Greek and Roman influences?

Fact: This painting is credited to Lorenzo di Credi, but it may have been drawn by one of his students, Tommaso. Both of them were students of Leonardo da Vinci and use a similar style.



World Events:

1429 Joan of Arc leads the French to break the English siege of Orleans in France.

1446 First printed book, the *Gutenberg Bible*, is published in Germany.

1492 Columbus discovers America.

1503-06 Leonardo da Vinci paints *Mona Lisa*.

1508-12 Michelangelo paints the roof of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

12. Northern Renaissance (c. 1400 CE – 1600 CE)



Male Saint, 1450/1499

Circle of Hans Multscher, German (1400-1467)

Wood with paint and gilt

63 31/50 inches H; 17 inches W; 14 inches D

Gift of David T. Owsley

2007.004.002

The Italians, with visual reminders of the ancient world surrounding them, focused on human form. However, artists of the Northern Renaissance, mostly in Flanders, Germany, England, and other northern European countries, focused on detail and light. The Renaissance in the North was also famous for its literary works in addition to its visual art.

Artists of Northern Europe focused on the individual personality as a theme in

producing art, which stemmed in part from the rise of the middle class through personal achievement rather than inherited wealth.

Extravagantly carved altarpieces decorated most cathedrals and were usually painted like stone to blend in with the architecture. This carving of a male saint was most likely taken from an altarpiece. Notice how the saint is not portrayed as a heavenly being. He is not adorned with religious symbols, and he is standing on a base of green that would represent the earth and not a celestial setting. The book hanging from his belt is one of the only indications he is a learned and

holy man. The humanity prevalent in religious figures is one of the primary points of Northern Renaissance art.

Fact: During the Northern Renaissance, the first true landscape was painted, although it was used as a backdrop.



World Events:

1429 Joan of Arc leads the French to break the English siege of Orleans in France.

1446 First printed book, the *Gutenberg Bible*, is published in Germany.

1503-06 Leonardo da Vinci paints *Mona Lisa*.

1517 Martin Luther begins the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

1534 Henry VIII of England founds the Anglican Church.

13. Baroque (c. 1600 CE – 1700 CE)



Family Group,

1640/1650

Peter Thys, Flemish

(1624-1677)

Oil

53 1/8 inches H; 67 1/16

inches W

Frank C. Ball Collection

1995.035.154

The Baroque style is described as emotional, realistic,

and dynamic. Baroque painters saw a canvas as a stage where they painted dramatically.

Standing in front of *Family Group* with its large, dark canvas and stiffly posed figures is like standing in front of a stage at the opening of a performance.

Baroque paintings are full of movement, exuberant colors, and dramatic contrast of light and dark. Artists worked hard to manipulate their medium to achieve a realistic effect in their art. Subjects were viewed as participants or actors chosen by the artist on a stage that extended beyond the canvas.

Portraits such as *Family Group* were often commissioned by middle class families to display their wealth and social standing, as well as represent the dignity of their family. This portrait represents family harmony, marital fidelity, and parental fertility. Where do you see these themes portrayed in the painting?

The Protestant Reformation led to more secular art as seen in the Baroque era portraits and landscapes, but the Counter Reformation, led by the Roman Catholic Church, utilized art as a way to inspire renewed faith. Art commissioned by the Church portrayed grievously tortured heretics paying for their sins and the passionate lives of saints living in heavenly bliss.

Fact: The baby seen in the middle of this painting was originally not visible when BSU Museum of Art received it, but was later revealed after restoration.



World Events:

1560-1648 Counter Reformation begins.

1609 Galileo invents the telescope.

1620 The Pilgrims land at Plymouth.

1624 Versailles Palace built in France.

1687 Newton devises the theory of gravity.

14. India



Jali Screen, 1725/1775

Undertified Maker, Indian (Mughal Period)

Quartz arenite sandstone

67 inches H; 26 1/8 inches W; 2 1/2 inches D

Gift of the Alconda-Owsley Foundation

1991.058.002

Jali is a Hindi term for a type of latticed screen used in Indian architecture for railings, windows, or screens separating rooms. The intricate detail and fine craftsmanship of this screen indicates the royal purpose it might have served. The geometric pattern and latticework carvings of the screen are a significant form of decoration in much but not all Islamic art. Many Muslims have strict rules against depicting animals and humans, because they were concerned that this could be equated with idol worship. Instead, Islamic art focuses on unique

and intricate designs using geometric, floral, and repeating patterns and designs.

Some *Jali* screens used as parts of outer walls cut through the glare of light and still allowed air circulation. As light shined in through the screen, geometric patterns danced across the floor, transferring the pleasing design. Screens of this type were frequently used in the windows of women's quarters, so that women could look out without being seen by all. Consider some of the common objects we use today for decoration as well as functionality.

Fact: The Taj Mahal was completed in 1653, incorporating Indian, Islamic, and Persian architectural styles. It was built by the Shah for his favorite wife after her death.



World Events:

3000 BCE Hinduism becomes the major religion of India.

118-125 CE The Pantheon is constructed in Rome.

220 CE The Han Dynasty in China comes to an end.

720 CE Islamic Caliphate invades India; Islam practiced in India.

1325 The Aztec civilization founds Tenochtitlan, modern day Mexico City.

1617 British East India Company is given permission to trade in India.

15. Rococo (c. 1700 CE – 1776 CE)



Marquise de Caumont La Force,
1767

Francois Hubert Drouais, French
(1727-1775)

Oil on canvas

39 inches H; 31 5/8 inches W

E. Arthur Ball Collection

1995.035.125

Unlike the serious,
heavy-looking Baroque style,
Rococo was a decorative,
elaborate art most often seen in
French architecture and
sculpture. Painting was often
considered frivolous-looking and

characterized by fluidity, curving lines, and lustrous colors. Favorite subjects for Rococo artists were the courtly lifestyles and playful love lives of the aristocracy. Drouais, the most prominent portraitist of his time, was the private artist of King Louis XV of France and a favorite of the king's mistress. At the time this portrait was painted, the marquise had recently arrived at court after the death of her husband.

The setting of the room and posture of the marquise are casual and relaxed, a characteristic seen often in Rococo art. Notice her elaborate dress, detailed in fine embroidery and trimmed with patterned lace. The fine garment is not only beautiful, but displays the wealth of the marquise.

She sits at her embroidery table, which illustrates her industriousness and interests.

Portraits of this style often include a person with an object relating to their skills or interests in much the same way we pose with our favorite objects in our photographs.

Fact: The artist of this painting, Drouais, was sometimes criticized for being superficial, overly sweet, and lacking in the spark that brings out the subject's personality. Do you agree with these criticisms? Why or why not?



World Events:

1560-1648 Counter Reformation begins.

1609 Galileo invents the telescope.

1620 The Pilgrims land at Plymouth.

1624 Versailles Palace built in France.

1687 Newton devises the theory of gravity.

16. Oceania



Gable Peak Figure (Tekoteko), about 1780

Unidentified Maker (Maori), New Zealand

Wood and haliotis shell

48 1/2 inches H; 7 1/2 inches W; 6 inches D

Gift of David T. Owsley

1991.068.028

When a member of the Maori tribe of New Zealand becomes an adult, he or she receives a unique set of tattoos, called *moko*. These designs are carved into the skin and filled with a sooty material. Those who endured this process earn social prestige and respect. Each design is unique, and *moko* are used as forms of identification, similar to our social security numbers.

The tattoos on this figure represent one of the owner's ancestors. The Maori revere their

ancestors as powerful beings who protect and guide them, so depictions of them are common in Maori art. They believe figures like this hold the spirit of their ancestors, who watch over those entering the meetinghouse in which they were once displayed. The figure once had an outthrust tongue, which symbolizes defiance and strength. He also holds a short club, symbolizing his status as a great warrior who is always ready to protect his tribe. These attributes, as well as the pattern on the figure's right shoulder and the fact that it is depicted with only three fingers, are common motifs in Maori art.

Fact: The term Oceania refers to an area that stretches from Hawaii to Australia and the Southeast Asian islands. It includes fifteen countries and twenty-five languages.



World Events:

1789-97 George Washington’s presidency

1803 Louisiana Purchase made by Thomas Jefferson.

1850 Gold Rush in Australia

1947-1950 Jackson Pollock’s “drip period”

1980 *Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back* premieres in movie theaters.

17. Neo-Classicism (c. 1780 CE – 1820 CE)



*A Young Woman from Thebes Tending
Her Wounded Father*, 1809

Mlle Befort, French (active 1812-1819)

Oil on canvas

76 ½ inches H; 60 ½ inches W

Purchase: Friends Fund and Museum of Art

Endowment

1996.002.000

Almost two thousand years ago, Mount Vesuvius erupted covering the occupants of Pompeii in several feet of ash. The city stood still until it was accidentally rediscovered in 1738.

Europeans in the 1700s were fascinated with this ancient city frozen in time by natural disaster. Discoveries such as Pompeii revitalized interest in the Classical art of Ancient Greece and Rome, which could be used to promote universal ideas such as courage and patriotism. By the late 1700s, the Age of Enlightenment spurred discovery, technology, and scientific thought in a movement toward Classical ideals.

Neoclassicism changed art techniques as well. Though they continued contrasting light and dark colors in a way similar to Baroque artists, Neoclassicists stopped using vibrant color and busy compositions. Instead, they focused on line and symmetry, using formulas of set proportions and exact perspective. These techniques generated a more uniform, ideal work of art.

The fire in the background of Bafort's painting reveals the setting as Thebes, an ancient Greek city often at war. Mlle Bafort might have related Thebe's conflicts to the Napoleonic Wars France fought during her lifetime. Despite the warfare evident in the setting, the young woman in Bafort's painting seems surprisingly composed. What message might this send to someone living in France during the Napoleonic Wars?

Fact: The subjects in Neoclassical paintings often look shiny, smooth, and hard because Neoclassical painters sought to conceal their brushstrokes to imitate the polished look of marble sculpture.



World Events:

1776 American colonies declare independence from Great Britain.

1789 The French Revolution breaks out in Paris.

1799-1815 The Napoleonic Wars take place.

1738 Lost city of Pompeii is uncovered.

1700s-1800s Industrial Revolution begins in Great Britain.

18. Romanticism (c. 1800 CE – 1850 CE)



Crossing the Brook (after Turner),

1872/1895

John Ottis Adams after Turner,

American (1851-1927)

Oil on canvas

31 1/8 inches H; 27 3/16 inches W

Frank C. Ball Collection, gift of the Ball

Brothers Foundation

1995.035.026

In a world where discovery fueled an emphasis on rationality, Romanticists rejected such Enlightenment ideas to focus on emotional experiences. Instead of

looking to the past for universal themes, as in Neoclassicism, Romantic artists looked at the world around them.

In general, Romantic art focused on contemporary events rather than ancient ones. Industrialization changed the city environment and gave some men a new sense of control. Romanticists, however, sought to remind their audiences of nature's enduring and unpredictable power. They often replaced human subjects with nature as the focus of their art, constructing beautiful, powerful, and occasionally alarming scenes from their own countryside.

A new emphasis on landscape paintings, such as *Crossing the Brook*, accompanied Romanticism. For the first time, nature was the subject of painting instead of the setting. For example, while viewing this painting, your eyes might travel past the girl and dog to the trees

and valley beyond. These figures, which are not centered in the composition, are small in comparison to the vegetation. The title might indicate what the figures are trying to do, but the painting itself focuses on the brook and its surroundings.

You may also notice visible brushstrokes. To turn away from the glossy finishes of Neoclassicism, many Romantic artists began to use these brushstrokes to capture the mood of the scene.

Fact: Some artists imitate the styles of other admired artists by reconstructing their art. This process draws the new artist closer to the master's technique and helps him or her to analyze the work of art in a new way. John Ottis Adams's painting *Crossing the Brook* is a reconstruction of William Turner's painting by the same name.



World Events:

1776 American colonies declare independence from Great Britain.

1789 The French Revolution breaks out in Paris.

1738 Lost city of Pompeii is uncovered.

1879 Edison invents the light bulb.

1900s Age of Enlightenment in Europe

18. Oceania



Funerary Mask, 1875/1970

Unidentified Maker, New Ireland

Wood, fiber, polychrome, and opercula

15 inches H; 15 inches W

Gift of David T. Owsley

1991.068.027

This mask originates in New Ireland, a province of Papua New Guinea that lies just north of Australia. It is one of many wooden objects called *malanggan* used to honor the deceased at a ceremony by the same name. These ceremonies are often held for more than one person, but they are sponsored by only one family.

Only people with great wealth can afford a *malanggan*. By holding joint ceremonies, the *malanggan* strengthens the sense of unity and obligation within the community. At these ceremonies, mourners express both sorrow and joy for the deceased. Pigs are sacrificed, and feasts and dances are held.

This funerary mask was worn during a dance to honor the deceased. Note that only half of the mask has “hair.” This matches the hairstyle worn by mourners. The design on the mask represents one individual, and the mask contains spirits. After the ceremony, the *malanggan* are either burned or kept as a memorial to the deceased.

Fact: Today, tombstones may be used instead of *malanggan*, though these ceremonies are still held.



World Events:

1789-97 George Washington's presidency

1803 Louisiana Purchase made by Thomas Jefferson.

1850 Gold Rush in Australia

1947-1950 Jackson Pollock's "drip period"

1980 *Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back*
premieres in movie theaters.

19. Realism (c. 1850 CE -1900 CE)



Arbiter of Peace, 1887

Nikolay Kuznetsov,

(Ukrainian) Russian

(1850-1930)

Oil on Canvas

25 inches H; 39 inches W

Gift of Mrs. Albert J.

Beveridge

1946.002.005

Consider what the word “real” means to you. Many works of art not classified as Realist look very realistic, yet only some of this art is labeled as such.

Recall Charles Dickens’s story *A Christmas Carol*. Ebenezer Scrooge is a wealthy man visited by three ghosts who show him his greedy flaws. He is slow to heed the ghosts’ advice, but Tiny Tim, the crippled son of Scrooge’s poor employee Bob Cratchit, changes Scrooge for the better. Characters such as Tiny Tim were what separated the Realists from other *realistic* forms of art. While the subjects in other art are very realistic, they are also idealized; even if they were modeled after real people, they are often changed to fit an ideal of perfection. Realism in art shows real people and situations that mimic everyday life. Sometimes these depictions are even grittier than real life to contrast with the earlier focus on the opulent upper class world.

Look at the figures in *Arbiter of Peace*. An officer is settling a conflict between the local people to the left. Russian serfs had been freed in 1861, just 26 years before the painting was made. Russian artists, such as Kuznetsov, included these serfs and the industrial working class in their art. They also began making their art accessible to these groups of people.

Fun Fact: Kuznetsov may have been part of a group of Russian artists known as “the Wanderers,” who sought to provide art to more people through traveling exhibitions in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and smaller cities throughout the country.



World Events:

1776 American colonies declare independence from Great Britain.

1789 The French Revolution breaks out in Paris.

1799-1815 The Napoleonic Wars take place.

1700s-1800s Industrial Revolution begins in Great Britain.

1863 Slavery abolished in the United States.

20. Impressionism (c. 1860 CE – 1886 CE)



Glimmer Glass, 1895

John Ottis Adams,

American (1851-1927)

Oil on canvas

19 7/8 inches H; 29 15/16

inches W

Frank C. Ball Collection, gift

of the Ball Brothers

Foundation

1995.035.036

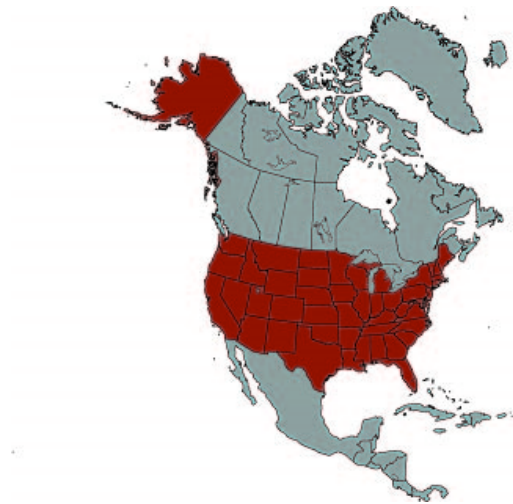
If you were an artist and your art was the only means of capturing a scene, what would you do if someone else developed a faster, more accurate way to do this? Photography was invented at the end of the 1820s, and by the 1860s photographs were in high demand.

In France, a group of artists reacted to photography and other technological advancements in a way that revolutionized the painter's technique. Impressionists left their studios to paint scenes *en plein air*, or in the outdoors. If photography had successfully captured an image in time, then Impressionists sought to capture something else: light's effect on the figures and scenery around them.

By applying paint directly to the canvas in short, heavy brushstrokes of color, Impressionists expressed how light and movement changed the optical impression of a scene. The colors combined to form an image recognizable to the eye while individually expressing light's movement over the setting. Impressionists often also painted the same view more than once a day to capture the way light changed as the sun moved across the sky.

If you stand within three feet of *Glimmer Glass* you might not be able to decipher the subject of the painting. Step back. What do you see? The title itself hints at what the Impressionists sought to do. The word “glimmer” indicates the movement of light over the water, something that cannot be caught on still film. What other details in the painting imply movement?

Fact: John Ottis Adams, an Indiana native, often worked in the Muncie area. He was a member of the “Hoosier Group,” a group of artists who lived and painted in Indiana. *Glimmer Glass* was painted in the Mississinewa Valley, just north of Muncie.



World Events:

1839 Louis Daguerre takes first photograph.

1841 The first collapsible tin tubes are patented for oil paint.

1874 Impressionists hold their first exhibition in Paris.

1880 Van Gogh begins his painting career.

1889 The Eiffel Tower built for the World's Fair.

21. Africa



Palace Support Columns, 1900/1950

Unidentified Maker (Bamileke, Babanki, or
Kom People), Cameroon

Wood

96 inches H; 13 inches W; 5 1/2 inches D

Gift of David T. Owsley via the Alconda-Owsley
Foundation

2003.013.000a-b

Can a vase be art? Or furniture?

What about architecture? Functional art
serves both artistic and practical purposes.

African art is usually functional, often
expressing a tribe's culture while serving

religious and architectural roles.

Columns such as these were used by tribes in the grasslands of Cameroon. These tribes were ruled by dominant families while others paid tribute to the leader. The *Palace Support Columns* once supported the canopy on the palace of the *Fon*, or king, in Cameroon. They were symbolic as well as structural. In Cameroon society, art was often used as a symbol of status. The amount of art a person had, the material of which it was made, and the subject of the object all indicated the position of its owner in society. For the *Fon*, the *Palace Support Columns* illustrated his important position as the central leader of his tribe.

One artist was granted the position of personal artist of the king. Since that honor was not inherited, it was a very competitive position. To gain the respect of the king, artists attempted to

honor the community through their art. Art such as these columns recorded important ancestors in a way similar to our photographs and family trees.

Consider other occasions when you might have seen art similar to the *Palace Support Columns*. Native American totem poles have a similar appearance, but they represent a single ancestor, while the *Palace Support Columns* record an entire lineage, marking important ancestors. While they serve a similar structural purpose to many columns in homes and public buildings you often see, the *Palace Support Columns* also tell stories, record history, and mark status.

Fact: Columns like these were used in Cameroon chiefdoms until the early 1900s. After that time, geometric brick patterns based on German colonial design replaced the carved wood.



World Events:

1905 Pablo Picasso becomes aware of African art.

1914 Much of Africa comes under European control.

1914-1918 World War I

1944 First digital computer developed.

1960 Democratic Republic of Congo receives independence from Belgium.

22. Africa



Mask (Kifwebe), 1900/1999

Unidentified Maker (Songye People), Democratic

Republic of Congo

Wood and hair

13 1/2 inches H; 7 3/8 inches W; 6 1/2 inches D

Gift of David T. Owsley

2003.011.000

For years, Westerners dismissed African art as simple. On figures, the head is often larger than the body, facial features are sometimes out of proportion, and colors are not often representational. Today we better understand that these characteristics are intentional and difficult to achieve.

Much African art, such as the *Mask (Kifwebe)*, serves religious and practical purposes

while expressing the culture of the tribe that makes it. This art inspired artists such as Pablo Picasso to begin the Cubist movement by breaking free from European tradition.

Consider times when our culture uses masks. Now, look at the *Mask (Kifwebe)*. How is it different from masks you usually see? The *Mask (Kifwebe)* is symmetrical, and its colors are vibrant and patterned. You may note that the mask resembles a human face with eyes, nose, and mouth, but that they may not be the shapes you immediately think of when you hear the words “eyes,” “nose,” and “mouth.” The large eyelids, striped face, and square mouth might seem

unintentional, but masks like these are deliberately abstract. After all, is not the point of a mask to conceal your true identity?

The *Mask (Kifwebe)* was worn at the *makaye a kifwebe*, or “dance of the mask,” at the deaths and appointments of new chiefs or the arrival of an important visitor. It could also have been on a life-sized statue. Try to imagine the mask both in movement on a dancer and still on a statue. How might the wearer’s movement change the way a mask looks?

Fact: The color selection may be surprising to you, but to tribes like these, paint was more than decoration. Artists often used natural pigments, which affects the color palette. They also saw it as a way for a spirit to enter the mask, which literally gave the mask “a life of its own.”



World Events:

1905 Pablo Picasso becomes aware of African art.

1914 Much of Africa comes under European control.

1914-1918 World War I

1944 First digital computer developed.

1960 Democratic Republic of Congo receives independence from Belgium.

23. Fauvism (c. 1904 CE – 1908 CE)



Under the Trees I (Sous-Bois I), 1906

Andre Lhote, French (1885-1962)

Oil paint

28 3/4 inches H; 23 5/8 inches W

Gift of David T. Owsley

1997.024.001

The first of the avant-garde movements to apply new, innovative concepts to art, Fauvism took the colors used by Impressionists and intensified them. Their paint came straight from the tube and was undiluted. Colors were unrealistic; a Fauve painting might

include blue trees or a yellow sky. The Fauves used these colors to express their emotions about their subjects.

Some critics scorned this new style, and one even called the artists “*Fauves*” or “wild beasts.” This style was at its height from 1905 to 1908, when many artists turned to Cubism’s logic to escape the unruly emotions of the Fauves. For most artists, Fauvism was an experimental learning tool. Many of the Fauves, including André Lhote, painted in other styles as well.

André Lhote painted *Under the Trees I (Sous Bois I)* in 1906. He focused on a small thicket of trees instead of the larger landscapes seen in other Fauve paintings. Pink trees and blue bushes cover most of the canvas. Brushstrokes are easily seen in the thick paint, intensifying movement. Imagine what this painting would look like if it were depicted realistically. How does color choice affect your viewing of this scene?

Fact: André Lhote made another, slightly darker version of this scene in *Under the Trees II* (*Sous Bois II*), which is currently in a private collection.



World Events:

1906 Einstein introduces theory of relativity.

1906 President Theodore Roosevelt is the first American awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

1919 Treaty of Versailles signed.

1941 National Gallery of Art opens in Washington, D.C.

1941 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.

24. Japan



Woman Holding a Tray, 1920

Goyo Hashiguchi, Japanese (1880-1921)

Color woodblock print

15 3/4 inches H; 10 1/2 inches W

Purchase from Museum of Art Endowment Fund

2007.003.005

During the Edo Period (1603-1868), Japan turned its gaze away from foreign influence and looked inward. This prosperous, peaceful society led to prolific cultural activity. Similar to the Renaissance in Europe, the Edo period was a time of growth and advancement in art, literature, and other areas that lasted into the Taisho era (1912-1926).

The art of Japan before the Edo Period focused on serene subjects, such as Buddhist monks on the cusp of enlightenment, but the people of Edo Japan wanted pictures of dashing actors and beautiful geishas on their walls in much the same way that we buy posters of our favorite movie stars or rock bands.

One popular form of art that developed was woodblock prints, or *ukiyo-e*, which means “picture of floating world.” Prints were produced through the close collaboration of artist, carver, and printer. The completed objects were beautifully colored prints of actors and courtesans, which were inexpensive and mass produced to bring art to people of all social classes.

Woman Holding a Tray was created several decades after the end of the Edo Period during the Taisho Era, but it still shows the influence of both periods by portraying a beautiful young woman gazing serenely off in the distance. During the Edo Period many people believed enlightenment was reached through beauty and pleasure instead of constant meditation and discipline. Prints of women grew more widely accepted during the Taisho Era, when Japan became more open and liberal.

Fact: Though Goyo Hashiguchi was an active artist just after the Edo Period, he was renowned for his *ukiyo-e* prints and was praised for his sensitive and graceful portrayal of women through his mastery of line and composition.



World Events:

1700 *Ukiyo-e* becomes popular.

1912 Taisho Democracy begins in Japan.

1919 Prohibition in United States

1922 Japanese Communist party founded.

1924 Surrealist Manifesto published.

25. Cubism (c. 1908 CE – 1914 CE)



Woman in the Yellow Dress, 1941

Richard Koppe, American (1916-1973)

Watercolor

29 inches H; 22 inches W

Works Progress Administration Allocation

1943.502.008

Moving away from the emotion of Fauvism, Cubists sought to logically abstract their surroundings. Influenced by the style and distortion of African art, Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque began working in the Cubist style around 1906, and the style remained popular among artists for several

decades. Cubists broke their subjects into geometric forms and used multiple vantage points to emphasize the two-dimensionality of the canvas.

Of the two types of Cubism, Analytic was much more abstract, reducing figures to unidentifiable shapes and relying on an almost monochromatic color scheme. Synthetic Cubism also used multiple vantage points. However, subjects were more recognizable, though simplified, and color was returned. Artists did not limit themselves to just paintings and drawings, and Cubist sculpture emerged, following the same principles. The influences of Cubism were far-reaching, affecting much of art in the 1900s.

Richard Koppe's *Woman in the Yellow Dress* is an example of Synthetic Cubism. The figure and her instrument are clearly identifiable, but depicted using geometric shapes. Both the

front and side views of the woman's face and the guitar handle can be seen. Take a look at the African mask featured in the Timeline. Can you see a connection between the characteristics of this object and Cubism?

Fact: Cubism is one of the more influential art styles. Surrealism and Dada have roots in Cubism. Many artists who pursue abstraction owe much to the liberation of formal art concepts that Cubism introduced.



World Events:

1906 Einstein introduces theory of relativity.

1906 President Theodore Roosevelt is the first American awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

1939 World War II begins in Europe.

1941 National Gallery of Art opens in Washington, D.C.

1941 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.

26. Surrealism (c. 1921 CE -1942 CE)



Tornado, 1946

Stella Snead, English (1910-2006)

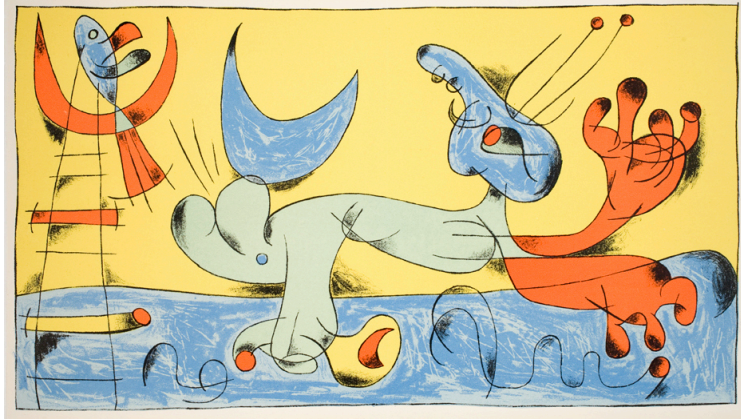
Oil on Canvas

22 inches H; 29 inches W

Gift of David T. Owsley via the Alconda-

Owsley Foundation

2001.006.000



Composition 7, About 1970

Joán Miró, Spanish (1893-1983)

Lithograph

9 inches H; 15 inches W

Administrative transfer from the Alexander

Bracken Library, Ball State University

1991.062.006

Dreams and subconscious thoughts fascinated artists of the Surrealist movement.

Surrealism originated in the early 1920s as a literary movement based on the writings of poet André Breton. Influenced by the psychological theories and dream studies of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, Surrealists sought to release all inhibitions and express the subconscious in dreamscapes.

Visual artists took two different routes when depicting the theories of Breton and Freud. Some artists, like Stella Snead, used realistic techniques to mimic hallucinatory dreams. Others, such as Joán Miró, attempted to banish all conscious control in order to explore the unconscious. Surrealist art such as Miró's appears whimsical due to its improvised nature. The horrors of

World Wars I and II and the Great Depression of the 1930's impacted both Miró and Snead, even though the paintings shown here were made decades after these events. By emphasizing the subconscious in their art, these artists may have found and provided a diversion from these and other difficult times.

Fact: According to Carol Strickland in the *Annotated Mona Lisa*, André Breton, known as the principal founder of Surrealism, said, "Miró may rank as the most surrealist of us all."



World Events:

1895 Freud develops psychoanalysis.

1914 World War I begins.

1929 The Stock Market crashes; Great Depression begins.

1936 The New Deal employs artists across the U.S.

1941 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.

27. Abstract Expressionism (c. 1946 CE – 1960 CE)



Chandelle, 1966

Norman Bluhm, American (1921-1999)

Oil on canvas

90 inches H; 72 inches W

Gift from the family of Norman Bluhm

2005.010.000

Take a look at this painting.

Note the prominent black curving line and imagine the intense, sweeping movement necessary to apply that line. The canvas can hardly contain the energy in the “simple” black line.

Shortly after World War II, New York City became the center of

attention in the art world. The hard times of the Depression and the war led artists such as Norman Bluhm, a former fighter pilot, away from traditional ideas and the artistic styles associated with them. The Surrealist themes of the subconscious and various Post-Impressionist movements made an impact on these American painters.

Artists used two different routes to express their concerns with human irrationality and vulnerability: Action Painting and Color Fields. Action Paintings, such as those by Norman Bluhm, involved dynamic movement on the artist’s part. Art critic Harold Rosenberg compared the canvas of an Action Painting to an arena in which a movement takes place. Rather than reproduce an actual or imagined object, Action Painters expressed the feeling of a particular moment. Artists used paint to record their impassioned movements. “What was to go on the

canvas,” Rosenberg observed in an essay entitled “The American Action Painters” published in 1952, “was not a picture but an event.”

Unlike the physically expressive compositions of Action Painting, Color Field Painting sought to arouse a quasi-religious experience. Artists, such as Mark Rothko, chose to reflect memory and nostalgia in their Color Field Paintings. Artists painted the entire canvas in swaths of pure color in an effort to reach the sublime. Both Action and Color Field techniques were often produced on large canvases, which allowed the viewer to feel immersed in the painting.

Fact: Just as Sigmund Freud’s theories of the unconscious influenced Surrealism, Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung’s theories of the “collective unconsciousness” influenced Abstract Expressionism. Unlike the Freudian emphasis on individual self-discovery, Jungian ideas emphasized the artist’s ability to reveal universal myths and symbols through art.



World Events:

1895 Freud develops psychoanalysis.

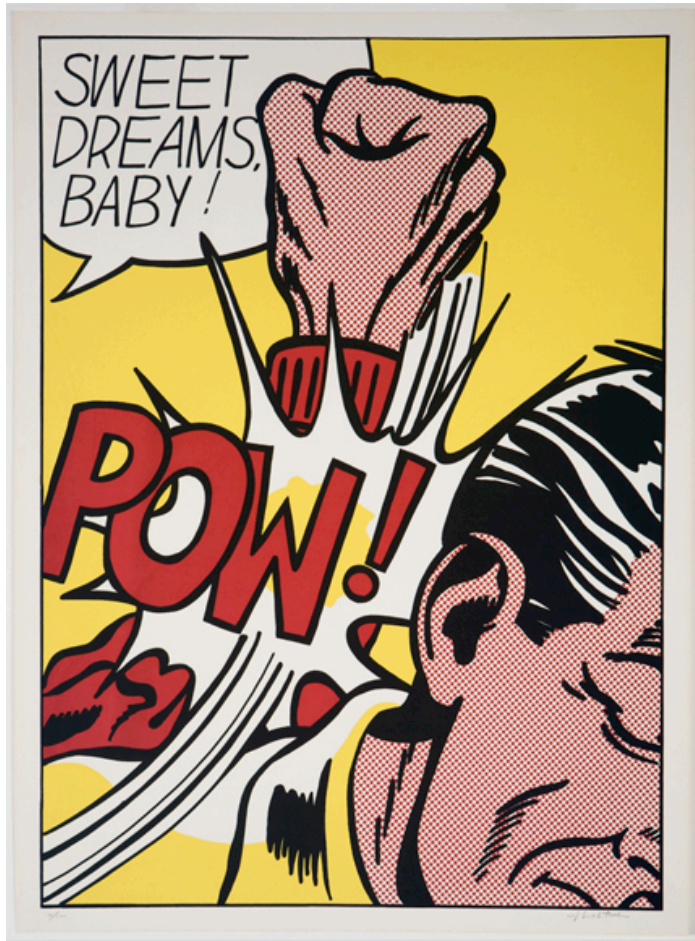
1941 United States enters World War II.

1945 United States bomb Hiroshima.

1954 The U.S. Supreme Court outlaws segregation.

1969 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon.

28. Pop Art (c. 1950s CE - 1960s CE)



(C) Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

Sweet Dreams, Baby! (Pow), 1965

Roy Lichtenstein, American (1923-1997)

Screen print on white wove paper

37 5/8 inches H; 27 9/16 inches W

Purchase by Friends of the Museum

1970.002.000

“Popular; Transient; Expendable;

Low Cost; Mass Produced; Young;

Witty; Sexy; Gimmicky; Glamorous;

and Big Business,” wrote artist Richard

Hamilton in a letter dated January 26,

1957, outlining his definition of Pop Art.

This quote from one of the

movement’s forerunners aptly describes

Pop Art. Satirical observers of contemporary culture, Pop artists produced art that reflected mass media and consumerism. Although their individual styles and techniques varied, together their art revealed American values and obsessions during the 1960s.

The movement rose to popularity unlike any other movement. The trendy look and familiar subject matter made Pop Art easy to like. Artists used contemporary images, such as food product labels and celebrity photographs, and mass-production techniques to voice political and social commentary. They were interested in advertising, consumer products, television, magazines, and comics.

An apt example of Pop Art is *Sweet Dreams, Baby! (Pow)*. This print by Roy Lichtenstein uses a comic strip as its source and inspiration. He isolates a particular comic frame

and scales it up in size. The result is a bold, exciting graphic. By taking this scene out of its context in a comic book, enlarging it to heroic proportions, and placing it in a museum, this image becomes a work of art that asks the viewer to consider the subject matter of art.

Fact: The method of screen-printing used to make *Sweet Dreams, Baby! (Pow)* allows the artist to make multiple copies. How does this quality further link Lichtenstein's print to the Pop Art movement?



World Events:

1961 Russian Yuri Gagarin is first man to orbit earth; Berlin Wall is built.

1962 First Pop Art exhibition

1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964 The Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan show.

1969 Neil Armstrong walks on moon.

29. Minimal Art (c. 1960s CE – 1970s CE)



Ordered by Telephone, 1969

Hans Breder, American (born 1935)

Plexiglas™

2 panels each measuring 84 inches H;
42 inches W; 1 inch D

Gift of the artist

2004.001.000a-b

Ordered by Telephone was named after the phone call artist Hans Breder placed at a manufacturing company who made it to his specifications. Breder had no physical contact with the material used in this sculpture; his voice was the only means of communication. In an interview, Breder said, “I wanted to remove myself from the process of making the work.” Seeking to purge all flashy distractions common in Pop Art and emotional reactions conjured by Abstract Expressionism, Minimalists, such as Breder, designed straightforward, geometric forms manufactured from raw materials. These artists believed reducing forms to the bare minimum intensified the viewer’s reaction.

These artists did not associate their artwork with a particular group or movement. In fact, this sculpture can also be considered Conceptual Art, a style that focused on the artist’s ideas rather than his or her physical contact with the materials. The incorporation of a single light source in Hans Breder’s *Ordered by Telephone* casts shadows that become as important as the Plexiglas™. According to Breder, “The question here is not what [the sculpture] is but where it is. The observer finds him or herself of that in-between space of awareness.”

Fact: Anthropologist Victor Turner's writing concerning the concept of liminality greatly influenced Hans Breder's art. According to Turner, liminality is the strange place between cultures, languages, and ideas.



World Events:

1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, TN.

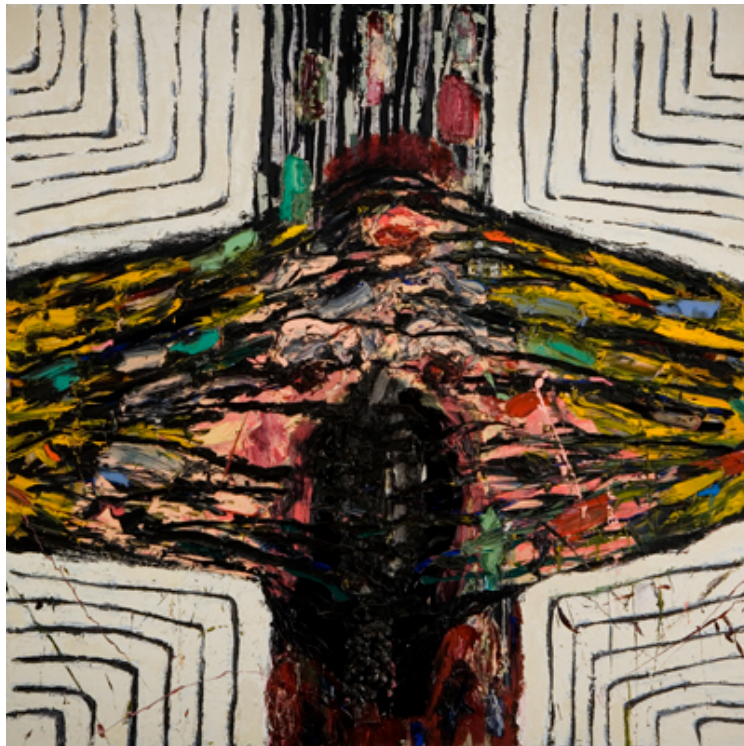
1969 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon.

1974 President Richard Nixon resigns from office.

1989 Berlin Wall is destroyed.

1997 The first adult mammal (Dolly the sheep) is cloned in Scotland.

30. Neo-Expressionism (c. 1980s CE)



Lady Labyrinth, 1989

Joan Snyder, America (born 1940)

Mixed media on canvas

60 inches H; 60 inches D

Museum purchase with assistance from
Museum of Art Alliance and the National
Endowment

1991.004.000

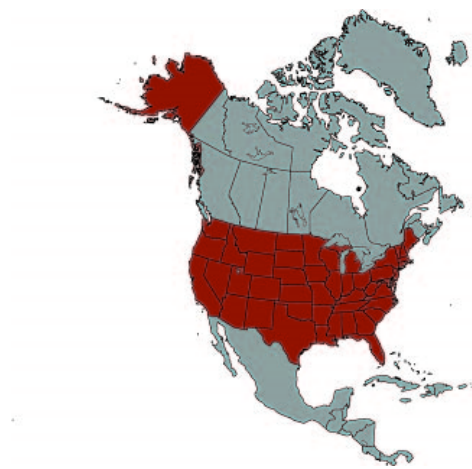
By the end of the 1970s a
movement emerged that threw out
the cool ideas of Minimalism and

embraced the impassioned emotions of Expressionism (a German art movement of the early 1900s). Neo-Expressionism resurrected what Minimalism attempted to kill. In an essay cataloging her work at the Danforth Museum in 2005, Joan Snyder, artist of *Lady Labyrinth*, proclaimed, “At the height of the Pop and Minimal movements, we were making...art that was personal, autobiographical, expressionistic, narrative and political.” While Minimalism attempted to strip away personal feelings, autobiographical content became a hot subject in the Neo-Expressionist movement. Art that incorporated Neo-Expressionist ideas is often characterized by the raw and sensual handling of mediums, social protest, and the attempt to make abstract emotions tangible.

Joan Snyder’s paintings are more than just paint on canvas; they are more like objects. Joan Snyder’s active role in feminist groups and difficult life experiences led her to express her convictions by tearing, slashing, stuffing and sewing on her canvases. For *Lady Labyrinth*,

Snyder assembled a collage of plastic grapes, reflective metallic powder, and velvet textile fragments on canvas to construct an abstracted female nude. Due to the subject matter and expression, some consider the content to be sexually charged.

Fact: According to an article written by Carlene Meeker for *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, Joan Snyder is quoted, “I felt like my whole life, I had never spoken ... had never been heard ... had never said anything that had any meaning. When I started painting, it was like speaking for the first time.”



World Events:

1974 Nixon resigns from office.

1981 MTV debuts on television.

1989 Berlin Wall is destroyed.

1997 The first adult mammal (Dolly the sheep) is cloned in Scotland.

2003 Iraq War begins.