

Design Periods and Styles

Abstract Expressionism: a 20th century painting style that is typified by large scale works and expression of emotions through bold, active brush strokes

American Realism: style of art which portrays typical American scenes which capture the character of the specific location they depict.

Baroque: a period and style of art found in Europe during the 17th century which emphasized color, light, and a high degree of decoration and ornateness.

Classicism: practice of using stylistic elements or preference to myths which originate from the Greek and classical period.

Conceptual art: style of art in which the idea or concept of a work of art is expressed in verbal or diagram form before the actual work- is executed.

Cubism: the school of art that breaks up natural objects and people into geometric forms

Expressionism: style of art associated with Germany in the 20th century in which the artist communicated strong and emotional feelings to the viewer.

Fauvism: style of painting developed in France in the early 20th century which used brilliant colors in unrealistic ways for expression. French for "wild beasts".

Gothic: style of art in Europe during the 12th through 15th centuries which emphasized religious art and architecture with strong vertical lines, spires, and pointed arches.

Impressionism: style of painting which originated in France about 1875 and emphasizes effects of light on color; typified by outdoor subject matter and spontaneity of technique

Neo Plasticism: style of art originated by Piet Mondrian in the early 20th century which emphasis formally organized geometric shapes rendered in primary colors.

Op Art: style of art that confused vision by generating vibration or ambiguous spatial relationships.

Pointillism: a style of 19th century French painting in which colors are systematically applied to canvas in small dots and dashes, producing a vibrant surface.

Pop Art: style of art in the 1950's that used popular mass-produced symbols (like the Campbells soup cans) as subject matter.

Post Impressionism: style of late 19th century French art that followed Impressionism: characterized by more substantial subject matter than those used by the Impressionists and by the use of bolder colors and a conscious effort to design the surface of the painting.

Primitive: art work painted by an artist who is self-taught and paints with a detailed and direct vision.

Realism: a mid-19th century style of art based on the belief that subject matter should be true to life without stylization or idealization

Renaissance: a period of time (about 1400-1600) in Europe characterized by cultural awareness, interest and learning: at first a revival (rebirth) of Greek and Roman styles, it developed into a humanistic style which is represented in the art of Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci.

Rococo: a late Baroque style (around 1715-1775) that is characterized by free, flowing profuse, and often over-elaborate decoration and ornament.

Romantic: style of art that emphasizes personal emotional and dramatic subject matter and which uses imagination as a source.

Superrealism: a 20th century style of painting that emphasizes photographic realism

Surrealism: a style of 20th century art in which artists combined normally unrelated objects and -situations in dreamlike surroundings