

# Modernism and Post Modernism

## ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Art is influenced by changes in society. It is affected by economic forces which cause widespread migration, war, and concentration of population in cities.
- New countries emerge and social movements gain strength.
- Artists become more prominent members of society.
- Art movements come in rapid succession. Art was seen in a new, often provoking way by the public.

## ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- New philosophies, particularly those by Freud and Einstein, spread throughout the world. These views were supplemented by a new understanding of worldwide cultures.
- Modern movements include Realism, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism.
- Artists joined groups and worked for galleries.
- Artists used new media like photography and lithography.
- Architects use new technology in construction.
- Commercial galleries become important. Museums open and display art. Art sells to an ever widening market.
- Artists work for private and public institutions to a sometimes critical public.

## IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. The stylistic characteristics and motives of abstract expressionism.
2. The stylistic characteristics of the Seagram Building.
3. Concepts and ideas of the Pop artists.
4. The ideological and visual differences between Modern and Postmodern architecture.
5. The innovations of the Harlem Renaissance.
6. Stylistic characteristics of Abstraction.
7. The feminist art movement and its important artists.
8. Modern artists and architects were quick to embrace new technologies in the creation of their works.
9. Avant-garde patrons cultivated cutting-edge artists and allowed them to flourish.
10. Modern art takes on a more international flavor than ever—great movements take place in locations hitherto thought of as cultural backwaters like Mexico and Russia.
11. Late modern art is a restless era of great experimentation, beginning with the achievements of the New York School.
12. The number of important female artists, gallery owners, patrons, and customers has grown significantly in the late modern era, bringing about a closer equality of the sexes.
13. Late modern art is a restless era of great experimentation, beginning with the achievements of the New York School.
14. Contemporary art is characterized by short lived movements of intense activity.
15. Technological developments have brought about a flood of new products that the artist can use to express him or herself.

## VOCABULARY

action painting	Happening
assemblage	Harlem Renaissance
earthwork	Installation
installation	Mobile
kitsch	Ready-made
Abstract	Silkscreen
Bio-morphism	
Cantilever	
Collage	
Color field painting	
Earthwork	
Ferroconcrete	

## RESOURCES

The Case for Andy Warhol  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VH5MRtk9HQ>  
Art is Pretentious  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LNiJK3rK9s>  
Meet Yayoi Kusama  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmFBI4cg3w>  
The Simpsons Modern Art  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=19&v=LtHHYYBIGQ4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=19&v=LtHHYYBIGQ4)

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## JOURNAL

*Marilyn Diptych (3.1, 1.4, 2.2)*  
*Spiral Jetty (3.1, 3.3, 1.3)*

## CONTEXT

World War II, with the global devastation it unleashed on all dimensions of life—political, economic, and [psychological]—set the stage for the second half of the 20th century. The dropping of atomic bombs by the United States on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 signaled a turning point not only in the war itself but in the geopolitical balance and the nature of international conflict as well. For the postwar generation, nuclear attack became a very real threat. Indeed the two nuclear superpowers, The US and the Soviet Union, divided the world into spheres of influence, and each regularly intervened politically, economically, and militarily wherever and whenever it considered its interests to be at stake.

After 15 years of bitter war in Southeast Asia, the US suffered defeat in Vietnam. The period from 1945 to 1980 also brought upheaval in the cultural sphere. In the United States, for example, the struggles for civil rights for African Americans, for free speech on university campuses and for disengagement from the Vietnam War led to rebellion of the young who took to the streets in often raucous demonstrations, some with violent repercussions. The prolonged ferment produced a new system of values, a “youth culture,” expressed in the radical rejection not only of national policies but often also of the society generating them. Young Americans mocked their elders lifestyles and adopted unconventional dress, manners, habits, and morals deliberately subversive of mainstream social standards, a phenomenon that continues today in different forms. The post-war youth era witnessed the sexual revolution, the widespread use and abuse of drugs, and the development of rock music, then an exclusively youthful art form.

The counterculture had considerable societal impact. The civil rights movement of the 1960’s and later the women’s liberation movement of the 1970’s reflected the spirit of rebellion, coupled with the rejection of racism and sexism. Women systematically began to challenge male dominated culture. Feminists charged that the political, social and economic institutions of Western society as well as the traditional family unit headed by a patriarch, perpetuated male power and the subordination of women. Increasingly individuals and groups actively challenged the status quo and sought to change the balance of power.



## WORKS OF ART

- Willem DeKooning, Woman I 1950-1952
- Mies Van Der Rohe and Phillip Johnson, Seagram Building 1954-1958
- Andy Warhol, Marilyn Diptych 1962
- Helen Frankenthaler, The Bay 1963
- Yayoi Kusama, Narcissus Garden 1966
- Claes Oldenburg, Lipstick Ascending on Caterpillar Tracks 1966
- Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty 1970
- Robert Venturi, House in Newcastle County 1978-1983
- Magdalena Abakanowicz, Androgyn III 1985

## ASSIGNMENTS

- ☐ Read Gardner's pages 949-993
- ☐ Complete homework packet
- ☐ Write journal
- ☐ Fill in flashcards

**HOMEWORK DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_