

# A WALK THROUGH THE MODERN PERIOD OF ART

Presented by



FINE ARTS FIESTA

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**WHAT???** WERE THEY THINKING?

# A WALK THROUGH THE MODERN PERIOD OF ART

## What??? Were they thinking?

— CREDITS —

The 20th century dawned with a spirit of optimism. It would come to be known as "The Beautiful Era" (la Belle Epoque—in French) industry, communications and transportation were quickly changing the world. Cities were expanding. Electric lights were in common use, and so was the camera. The invention of the camera in the early 1800's made artists consider the question, "How is the product of the artist different from that of a photographer?"

In Italy, a new style of art, called Futurism, had begun. But in 1914, Europe was plunged into WWI. In Italy, the young artists of the Futuristic movement rushed to defend their country. Many would not return; among them Umberto Boccioni.....whose pinnacle sculpture you see on the cover of this folder. He was 31 years old. A brilliant light was extinguished.

### Narratives, Project

Design & Facilitation: .....Darlene Smith

Site Installations: .....Scott Paull

### Installation Printing,

Design & Graphic Solutions: .....Wet Paint

Program Design & Printing: .....Blasi Printing

Concept: .....Brian J. Benedetti

### 1. "The Bar at the Folies Bergere" By Edouard Manet, 1882

A French modernist painter considered by critics to be the Father of Modernism. He was one of the first 19th century artists to reject traditional historical or allegorical painting in order to paint modern life as being worthy of "High Art"; he developed his own simple and direct style called "alla prima" which was an innovation.



### 2. "Self Portrait at Her Easel" By Berthe Morisot, 1885

One of "les trois grandes dames" (Three great ladies of impressionism) Morisot was heralded for her elegant & innovative technique, and brush work, and "effleurer" or Lightness of touch.

In 1890 Morisot wrote about her struggles to be taken seriously as an artist: "I don't think there was ever a man who treated a woman as an equal."



Morisot painted in the open air to find "truths" in observation of her subject. By 1880, she began painting on unprimed canvases, whose edges were often left unfinished... Allowing the canvas to show through and increasing a sense of spontaneity she often worked in oil paint, watercolors and pastel simultaneously. She married Eugene Manet, brother of Edouard Manet. Their beloved daughter, Julie, was frequently, the subject of her paintings... And so we include Berthe Morisot on our exhibit "Art from the Heart Of the Mother".

### 3. "Three Musicians" By Pablo Picasso, 1921

Perhaps the most prolific and well-known artist of the 20th century, the art of Pablo Picasso, covered many styles and materials ...and included painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, collage, and assemblage.

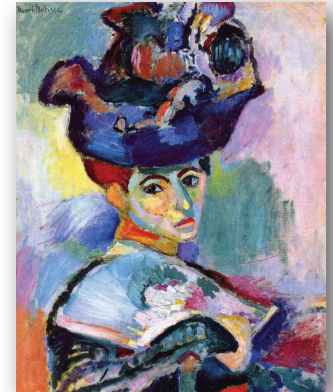


"Three Musicians" is a famous synthetic cubist painting depicting masked figures of Pierrot, Harlequin & Monk (characters from the Italian theater) as symbolic portraits of his friends. Known for its complex compositions, synthetic cubism, began as artists added textures and patterns to their paintings using newspaper print and pattern paper as in collage.

### 4. "Woman Wearing a Flowered Hat" By Henri Matisse, 1905

Matisse's expressive style of vibrant color, bold forms, and fluid lines was called "Fauvism" (or wild beasts—meant by critics to be an insult).

Later in his career, Matisse created iconic cut paper, collages such as the "Blue Nude" leaving a joyful legacy of decorative but profoundly influential works.



### 5. "Bathers at Asnieres" By Georges Seurat, 1884

Working in the open air (en plein air), Georges Seurat innovated an abstract method of overlapping dots of varying colors of paint, to build a calm, richness of color that seemed to glow from within.



The invention of the camera gave rise to the question..."How is the work of the artist different from the work of a photographer?" SEURAT'S answer was "pointillism".

### 6. "I and the Village" By Marc Chagall, 1911

Marc Chagall combined dreamlike fantasies and spirituality with a modern style to create poetic, surreal images that, to him, represented a topsy-turvy world of WWI.

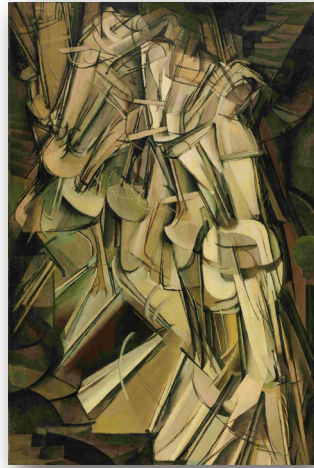
Born into austerity in Russia, Chagall eventually immigrated to Paris. But, images of his poor, but happy childhood village continued in his works. The daydream image of "a fiddler on the roof" originates from one of his paintings.



**7. "Nude Descending a Staircase"**  
By Marcel Duchamps, 1912

A modernist classic, this image by Duchamps was rejected by the cubists as being too futuristic due to its dynamism of movement. Cubism uses overlapping, angular figures and dark defining lines to define their subjects.

An artist, chess player and innovator, Duchamps played a key role in developing the "avant-garde" in the United States.



**11. "Hand Holding a Reflective Sphere"**  
by M.C. Escher 1935

In this "lithographic print", Escher drew the image onto a stone plate, using oil crayon and other techniques.

The stone is first treated with a solution and then rolled with ink. Printing paper is then applied to the stone and it is put through a press.

A master of this process Escher's images draw us into fascinating, highly detailed, but totally impossible worlds.

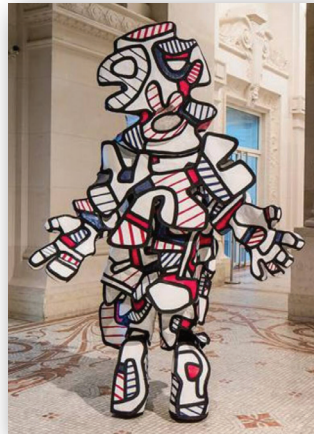


**8. "Papa, le Cravate!"**  
By Jean Dubuffet, 1970

A European artist of the postwar era, Dubuffet's paintings, drawings and sculptures range from abstraction to humorous, childlike figures.

An experimenter in the way of materials, Dubuffet advocated for the self-taught "Outsiders" to the field of art.

With intended humor, Dubuffet titled his exhibit in Switzerland "Cocou Bazar".



**12. "The Migration"**  
by Jacob Lawrence, 1947

The 20th century, began with great optimism. The industrial revolution had mechanized industry and a middle class, cities grew encouraging migration, Lawrence, painted cities, including a cycle of 16 paintings titled "The Migration."

Packed with pattern and color, Lawrence's "urban Jazz" chronicled the African-American experience.



**9. "Venus Butterfly"**  
By Salvador Dali, 1947

Highly skilled at realistic images, Dali delighted in using equally real but unrelated settings... Or by manipulating proportions and details. His works prompt us to ask the question...WHY???

The answers exist only in Dali's vivid imagination. His classical references, symbolize beauty, and transformation to express metamorphosis.

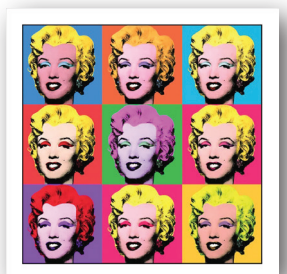


**13. "9 Marilyns"**  
By Andy Warhol, 1962

A graphic design artist working in advertising, Warhol saw the effect of the repeated image on the public.

His repeated lithographic images of celebrities comment on their dehumanization in the public eye.

Warhol's "avant garde" colorization of images. Common products and brand names are iconic in the Modern Art Era.



**10. "Oriental Poppies"**  
By Georgia O'Keeffe, 1925

O'Keeffe is known for her singular style, blending skilled realism with abstraction by using juxtaposition and levitation.

O'Keeffe began in New York City, but is most closely associated with the deserts of New Mexico where O'Keeffe painted large, sensual, closeups of flowers, using brilliant color and exploded sizes.



**14. "Portrait of Adele Block-Bauer"**  
(Woman in Gold)  
By Gustav Klimt, 1907

An Austrian symbolist Painter, Klimt helped define the Art Nouveau style in Europe. His primary subject was the female body, and his works are randomly and richly designed with abstract detail. This portrait represents a period in which Klimt applied gold leaf to his richly patterned abstract designs.



**15. "Unique Forms of Continuity in Space"**  
By Umberto Boccioni, 1913

In 1913 a 31-year-old Italian Futurist artist, Umberto Boccioni created this powerful figure striding forward... muscles tensed, and counterbalanced, engaged against gravity, leaning into a stiff wind. Cast in bronze the planes of motion gleam in the light.

In every way this work reflects the positivity Boccioni held for the decades ahead. WWI extinguished, his brilliant light!



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**Modern art does not refer to a STYLE of art, but rather a PERIOD OF TIME, from the 1860's to 1970.**

**Art after that period is referred to as Contemporary Art.**

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— GLOSSARY OF TERMS —

**Abstract Expressionism**

Post-WWII American art movement (1940s-1950s) emphasizing spontaneous, emotional, and large-scale abstract art, showcasing the artist's psyche through gestural Brushwork & Color to express deep human feelings and universal truths.

**Art Brut**

Art created outside the formal art world by self-taught individuals, often psychiatric patients or marginalized people, characterized by pure, instinctual expression.

**Art Deco**

A design style popular from the 1920s to 1940s, known for its sleek lines, bold colors, and opulent materials, blending traditional craftsmanship with Machine Age modernity reflecting luxury, progress, and exoticism through design motifs for Painting and sculpture, but also for everyday objects, such as furniture, architecture, decor, and painting and sculpture using zigzags, sunbursts, and streamlined forms.

**Art Nouveau**

Art Nouveau is an international style of art, architecture, and applied art that flourished between roughly 1890 and 1910. It was a deliberate attempt to create a new style, free of the imitation of history or tradition and is characterized by its use of long, sinuous, organic lines and natural forms. The movement aimed to modernize design and integrate art into everyday life, blurring the lines between fine arts and decorative arts.

**Avant-garde**

New unusual or experimental ideas, especially in the arts, or the people introducing them. Originating from French for "advance guard," it defines innovative works and the artists introducing them, often initially rejected by the mainstream. Avant-garde is radical, unorthodox, pushes boundaries and challenges established norms.

**Cubism**

A style of art showing subjects from multiple viewpoints at once, breaking them into geometric shapes, facets, and interlocking planes. This movement, which redefined modern art, was influenced by the concept of showing different views of a subject simultaneously.

**Futurism**

Showing speed through simultaneously overlapping forms. Distorting effects of motion on a subject with the iridescent effects of light.

**La Belle Epoque**

(French for "The Beautiful Era") was a golden age in French and European history, roughly from 1871 (end of Franco-Prussian War) to 1914 (start of World War I), marked by optimism, peace, economic prosperity, and significant cultural, scientific, and technological innovation, especially in Paris, featuring flourishing arts, new entertainment, and urban development like the Eiffel Tower.

**Surrealism**

A 20th Century movement in Art and Literature exploring the subconscious mind, dreams, and the irrational through fantastical, dreamlike imagery. Devices and techniques used to achieve surrealism in painting were...

- Levitation - Floating
- Translocation - Images placed in unrelated places
- Metamorphosis - Images changing forms
- Contradictory proportions and details
- Size enlargement

Also used were optical illusions such as double images, anamorphosis, negative space (space surrounding and between areas of the images), visual puns and trompe l'oeil, realism that fools the eye.

**Symbolist**

An artist or "m"writer who uses symbols, evoSymbolist often emphasizing spiritual, mystical, or psychological depths.