

## Lecture 2 Novel

In the 19th century, the art movement includes Realism, Impressionism, Post-impressionism, Art Nouveau, Symbolism... Enlightenment thinkers are always asking positive questions of "how", for example, "how to establish a more stable than equitable civil society". People at this time period seek breakthroughs. Each of these art movements usually went against the norms or reached out to the limitations such as lighting, unusual angles, arbitrary colors and etc.

In the 20th century, Cubism, Futurism, and Dada in particular started to rise into the public. Artists tried to use different techniques to convey the reality of time and space on a fixed canvas. In particular, Dada is the mind of spontaneity, or an attitude. After WWI and WWII, people became far less positive and much more cynical toward life. "Why war/beauty/god?" "Why you exist?" "The beginning of Dada were not the beginnings of an art, but of a disgust." Unlike other movements, Dada is more like an anti-art or skeptical question of life.

Modernism was a cultural movement which spread across Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is difficult to define, but generally it was viewed as a move towards change. The fully industrialised world of the time had a particular impact on more traditional ways of living and traditional forms in the arts. People began looking at new possibilities for more innovative creations and activities.

A key precursor in the change of painting was the invention of the camera. The photographic image replaced the function of the painting, forcing the painter to do more than just record the person or event as he saw it.

### Symbolism

A 19<sup>th</sup> century art movement rejecting Realism and Impressionism and their representation of the visual and concrete world. The Symbolists sought to express mystical and spiritual ideas through colour and line. They used these elements to express emotions and thoughts that were beyond literal descriptions.

Examples:

Edvard Munch (1863-1944), *The Scream*, 1893  
Gustav Klimt (1862-1918), *The Kiss*, c. 1907

## Surrealism

Surrealism can be understood as the art of the imagination and dreams. The Surrealists wanted to create art based on or using their subconscious thought. They were greatly inspired by the philosophical writings of Sigmund Freud, (*The Interpretation of Dreams*, 1900).

The Surrealists also used art-making techniques such as *automatism*, whereby the artist would draw freely, allowing his hand to move with minimum conscious control. This kind of unconscious art was also achieved by throwing paper on the floor or allowing the paint to drip from the brush.

Examples:

Joan Miro (1893-1983), *The Birth of the World*, 1925  
Rene Magritte (1898-1967), *The Treachery of Images*, 1928-9  
and *Personal Values*, 1952 Salvador Dali (1904-89), *The Persistence of Memory*, 1931

## Cubism

Cubism is recognised as a style of painting invented by Georges Braque (1882-1963) and Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired by Cezanne's theory of reducing form to its geometric shapes, these artists used collage and paint to make 2D images of 3D objects, and places, from multiple viewpoints.

The initial influence was African art, particularly African masks. Picasso's, *Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.)*, 1911 is often cited as the first Cubist painting.

**Cubism can be divided into 2 phases:**

**Analytical Cubism (1907-1912)**

The first phase of Analytical Cubism began with a limited colour palette of earth colours and greys. They tried to represent figures, landscapes and still life as they might be seen from a number of different viewpoints. They dismantled the objects,

What are the important features of 19th century?



The 19th century was an era of **rapidly accelerating scientific discovery and invention**, with significant developments in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, electricity, and metallurgy that laid the groundwork for the technological advances of the 20th century.

20 th century features

Some of the main features of twentieth- and twenty-first-century British literature include the following: A sense of authorial alienation from society and readers (Eliot, Pound). A reaction against “prudish” Victorianism (D. H. Lawrence). Loss of optimism about the futur