

Unit 08: Modernism to Post Modernism: Mid to Late 20th Century Art and Architecture

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **7-8 sessions**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Students will explore late 20th Century art and architecture. They will understand the history and contributions to the development of art and architecture that came out of this era. In particular, students will explore the development of art through: Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Performance Art & Happenings, Kinetic Sculpture, Op Art, Conceptual Art, and Pop Art styles/media/movements.

Transfer

Essential Questions

- • How did the United States become a center of artistic growth and development?
- • How did WWII and the post war era impact artistic thinking and the development of art and architecture in the mid 20th century?
- • What are the Post Modernist artistic styles and movements and what defines them?
- • Why did artists begin to move away from the concept of “Art for art’s sake” in the 1960’s?

Essential Understandings

- • Modernism shifted course in conjunction with the changing historical conditions and became increasingly identified with a strict formalism, - art for art’s sake- widening the gap between progressive artists and the public.
- • The advent of WWII, the Holocaust, the bombing of Japan, and the resulting political, social, and economic conditions sustained the philosophy of existentialism, which asserted the absurdity of human existence and the impossibility of achieving certitude, reflected the cynicism of the period. The spirit of pessimism and despair emerged frequently in the European art.
- • The United States as a microcosm of global society has played a key role in establishing the culture of Post Modernism.
- • Within the framework of the War in Vietnam, racial upheaval, feminism, and other social, political, and economic conditions, artists in the 1960’s began to create art that reflected concepts of mass culture and global civilization. This move from existentialism to structuralism – the universality of the human mind in all places and times – gave rise to the many artistic styles and movements referred to as Post Modernist.

Students Will Know

- • Basic vocabulary of late 20th Century art and architecture. (Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Performance Art & Happenings, Kinetic Sculpture, Op Art, Conceptual Art, Pop Art, structuralism, etc.)
- • Major art materials and mediums used by the culture and/or during the time period. (In particular the first use of oil paint.)
- • Major artists of the culture/time period.
- • The basic history of the time period being explored.
- • The characteristics unique to mid to late 20th Century art and architecture.
- • The geographical sites being explored.
- • The identification information of selected works of art from the culture/time period.

Students Will Be Skilled At

Evidence/Performance Tasks

- • Answer the essential questions.
- • Completion of homework and in class assignments derived from classroom activities (such as but not limited to: Readings, study guide activities and worksheets on mid to late 20th Century art and architecture. How did the principles and the techniques of the Minimalists differ from those of the Abstract Expressionists? Use specific works to illustrate your discussion. 10 minute AP essay writing.)
- • Ongoing notes, sketches, handouts, and reflections compiled in notebooks.
- • Participation in classroom activities such as: class discussion, Q and A sessions, cooperative group projects, role-playing, critique sessions, etc.
- • Quiz: Modernism to Post Modernism: Mid to Late 20th Century Art and Architecture
- • Self and teacher assessment using teacher generated rubric.

Learning Plan

- • Homework debriefing and presentation “A sense of place and history: the Vietnam memorial and the Civil Rights Memorial of Maya Ying Lin, and I.M. Pei's Louvre addition.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion
- • Homework debriefing and presentation “Abstract Expressionism in Europe and in New York.” o Handouts related to topic of discussions. o Discussions and Activities o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- • Homework debriefing and presentation “Non-figurative and figurative sculpture: David Smith, Louise Nevelson, Alexander Calder, Alberto Giacometti, and Duane Hanson.” o Handouts related to topic of discussions. o Discussions and Activities o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- • Homework debriefing and presentation “Pop Art, Performance Art, Happenings, and Conceptualism ” o Handouts related to topic of discussions. o Discussions and Activity o

Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.

- • Homework debriefing and presentation “The concept of space in post-WW2 architecture: glass, height, materials.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- • Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- • Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- • Unit Quiz
- • Written Assignment: How did the principles and the techniques of the Minimalists differ from those of the Abstract Expressionists? Use specific works to illustrate your discussion.

Materials

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

- • additional time on task
- • alternative outcome options
- • assessment based on individual development in the area of study
- • audio tape of instruction
- • cooperative learning groups
- • handouts of notes, procedures, processes, diagrams, etc.
- • images and visual aids
- • one-to-one instruction and assistance
- • preferential seating
- • reading material modified to student level
- • revised techniques, use of tools and media in hands-on activity
- • study partners
- • testing materials appropriate to student level