

Artistic movements in Europe (1860-1920)

Impressionism

Impressionism developed in France in the nineteenth century and is based on the practice of painting out of doors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in a studio from sketches. Main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life. Impressionism was developed by Claude Monet and other Paris-based artists from the early 1860s. The first group exhibition was in Paris in 1874 and included work by Monet, Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas and Paul Cezanne.



**Claude Monet
“Water-Lilies” after 1916**

Post-Impressionism

Post-impressionism is a term which describes the changes in impressionism from about 1886, the date of last Impressionist group show in Paris. The term is usually confined to the four major figures who developed and extended impressionism in distinctly different directions – Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Georges Seurat and Vincent van Gogh.

Post-Impressionists continued using vivid colours, often thick application of paint, and real-life subject matter, but were more inclined to emphasize geometric forms, distort form for expressive effect, and use unnatural or arbitrary colour.



Vincent van Gogh

"Farms near Auvers" 1890

Expressionism

Expressionism refers to art in which the image of reality is distorted in order to make it expressive of the artist's inner feelings or ideas. In expressionist art, colour in particular can be highly intense and non-naturalistic, brushwork is typically free and paint application tends to be generous and highly textured. Expressionist art tends to be emotional and sometimes mystical.

It may be said to start with Vincent Van Gogh and then form a major stream of modern art embracing, among many others, Edvard Munch, Henri Matisse, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoschka, Paul Klee, most of Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon ...



Edvard Munch
"The Scream" 1893

Fauvism

Fauvism is the name applied to the work produced by a group of artists (which included Henri Matisse and André Derain) from around 1905 to 1910, which is characterised by strong colours and fierce brushwork.

The name les fauves ('the wild beasts') was given by the critic Louis Vauxcelles when he saw the work of Henri Matisse and André Derain in an exhibition in Paris, in 1905. The paintings were made using bold, non-naturalistic colours (often applied directly from the tube), and wild loose dabs of paint. The forms of the subjects were also simplified making their work appear quite abstract.



André Derain

"Henri Matisse" 1905

Early abstraction

Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect. The term can be applied to art that is based on an object, figure or landscape, where forms have been simplified or schematised.

It is also applied to art that uses forms, such as geometric shapes or gestural marks, which have no source at all in an external visual reality. Abstract art is often seen as carrying a moral dimension, in that it can be seen to stand for virtues such as order, purity, simplicity and spirituality.

Since the early 1900s, abstract art has formed a central stream of modern art.



Wassily Kandinsky

"Cossacks" 1910–1