

What is an Art Movement ?

Art Movements are the collective titles that are given to artworks which share the same artistic ideals, style, technical approach or timeframe.

There is no fixed rule that determines what constitutes an art movement. The artists associated with one movement may adhere to strict guiding principles, whereas those who belong to another may have little in common.

Art Movements are simply a historical convenience for grouping together artists of a certain period or style so that they may be understood within a specific context.

Art Movements are usually named retrospectively by art critics or historians and their titles are often witty or sarcastic nicknames pulled from a bad review.

Grouping artists of similar interests or styles into Art Movements is mainly a characteristic of Western Art.

Art Movements are essentially a 20th century development when there was a greater variety of styles than at any other period in the history of art.

20th century

1900–1921

[Wassily Kandinsky](#), 1903, [Der Blaue Reiter](#) 21.1 cm × 54.6 cm (8.3 in × 21.5 in) **Bauhaus**



Important Art Movements To Remember

Pablo Picasso, *Family of Saltimbanques*, 1905, Picasso's Rose Period



Henri Matisse 1905, Fauvism



Pablo Picasso 1907, Proto-Cubism



Georges Braque 1910, Analytic Cubism

Important Art Movements To Remember



[Kazimir Malevich](#), (*Supremus No. 58*), Museum of Art, 1916, [Suprematism](#)

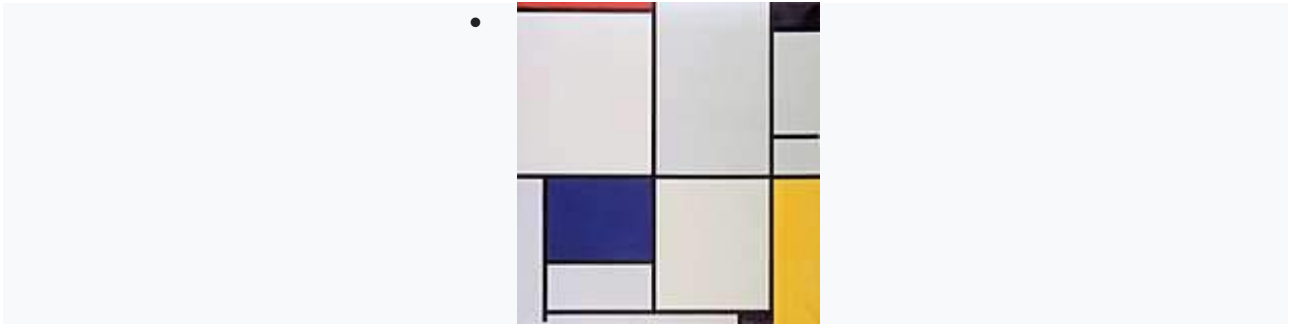


[Marcel Duchamp](#), *Fountain*, 1917, photograph by [Alfred Stieglitz](#), [Dada](#)



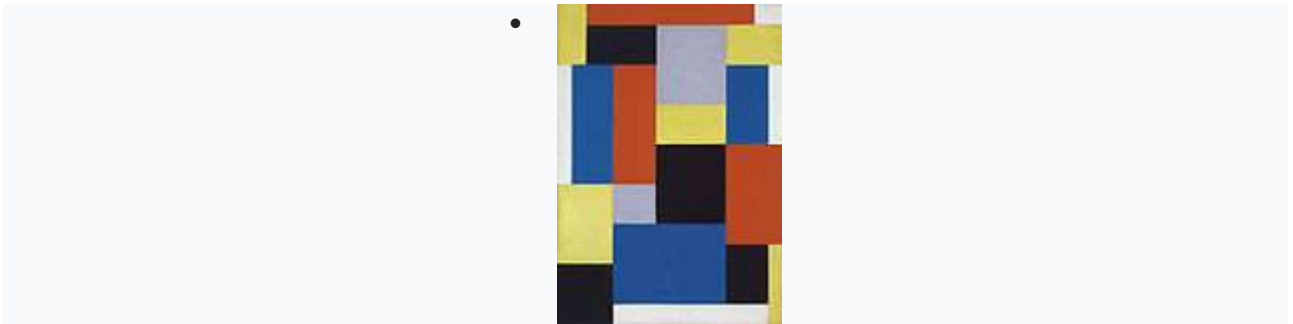
- [Albert Gleizes](#), *Woman with Black Glove*, 1920, [Crystal Cubism](#)

Important Art Movements To Remember



[Piet Mondrian](#), *Tableau I*, 1921, [De Stijl](#)

1920–1945



[Theo van Doesburg](#), *Composition XX*, 1920, [De Stijl](#)



[Max Ernst](#), *The Elephant Celebes* (1921), Tate, [Surrealism](#)

Important Art Movements To Remember



Charles Demuth, *I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold*, 1928, Metropolitan Museum of Art, **Precisionism**



Grant Wood, *American Gothic*, 1930, **Social Realism**

The Italian Renaissance



Italian Renaissance Art

Important Art Movements To Remember



Italian Renaissance Art
Naturalism



Italian Renaissance Art
Humanism



Italian Renaissance Art
Fresco Painting

Important Art Movements To Remember



Italian Renaissance Art
Tempera Painting



Italian Renaissance Art
Oil Painting

Modern Art Movements



Impressionism

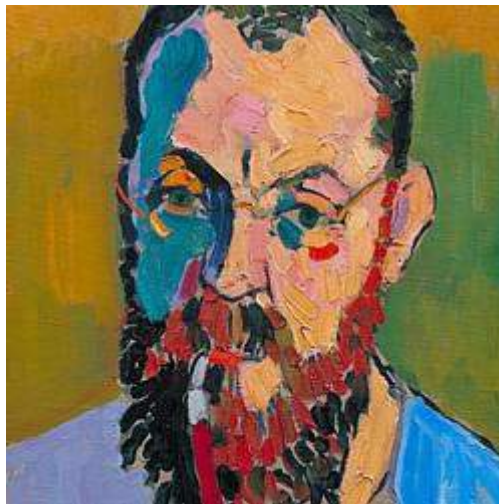


Post-Impressionism

Important Art Movements To Remember



Cubism



Fauvism

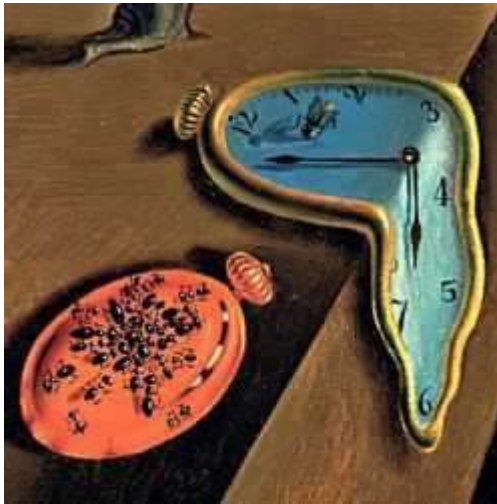


Expressionism

Important Art Movements To Remember



Dadaism



Surrealism



Pop Art

Important Art Movements To Remember



'The Persistence of Memory' (1937) by Salvador Dali

25 art styles/ movements

- Abstract Expressionism
- Art Nouveau
- Avant-garde
- Baroque
- Classicism

- Conceptual Art
- Constructivism
- Cubism
- Dada / Dadaism
- [Expressionism](#)

- Fauvism
- Futurism
- Impressionism
- Installation Art
- Land Art / Earth Art

- Minimalism
- Neo-Impressionism
- Neo-Classicism
- Performance Art
- Pointillism

Important Art Movements To Remember

- Pop Art
- Post-Impressionism
- Rococo
- Surrealism
- Suprematism

Abstract Expressionism



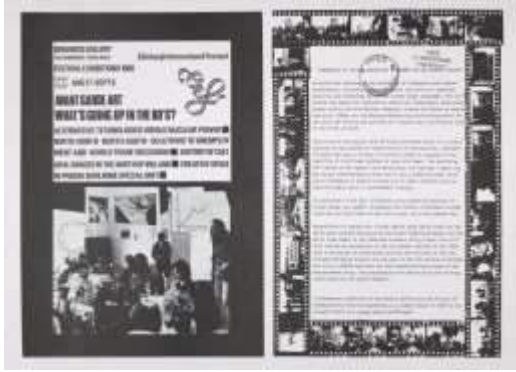
The designation Abstract Expressionism encompasses a wide variety of postwar American painting, usually characterized by large abstract painted canvases. Also known as The New York School, the movement includes sculpture and other media as well. The term Action painting is associated with Abstract Expressionism, describing a direct and highly dynamic kind of art that involves the spontaneous application of vigorous, sweeping brushstrokes and the effects of dripping and spilling paint onto the canvas.



Art Nouveau

A decorative style that flourished between 1890 and 1910 throughout Europe and the U.S. Art Nouveau, also called Jugendstil (Germany) and Sezessionstil (Austria), is characterized by sinuous, asymmetrical lines based on organic forms. Although it influenced painting and sculpture, its chief manifestations were in architecture and the decorative and graphic arts, aiming to create a new style, free of the imitative historicism that dominated much of 19th century art and design.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Avant-garde

In French, avant-garde means “advanced guard” and refers to innovative or experimental concepts, works or the group or people producing them, particularly in the realms of culture, politics, and the arts.



Baroque

The term Baroque, derived from the Portuguese ‘barocco’ meaning ‘irregular pearl or stone’, is a style in art and architecture developed in Europe from the early seventeenth to mid-eighteenth century. Baroque emphasizes dramatic, exaggerated motion and clear, easily interpreted detail to produce drama, tension, exuberance, and grandeur.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Classicism

The principles embodied in the styles, theories, or philosophies of the art of ancient Greece and Rome, concentrating on traditional forms with a focus on elegance and symmetry.



Conceptual art

Conceptual art, sometimes simply called conceptualism, emerged in the late 1960s, emphasizing ideas and theoretical practices rather than the creation of visual forms. The term was coined in 1967 by the artist Sol LeWitt, who gave the new genre its name in his essay “Paragraphs on Conceptual Art,” in which he wrote, “The idea itself, even if not made visual, is as much a work of art as any finished product.”

Important Art Movements To Remember



Constructivism

Developed by the Russian avant-garde around 1915, constructivism is a branch of abstract art, rejecting the idea of “art for art’s sake” in favor of art as a practice directed towards social purposes. The movement’s work was mostly geometric and accurately composed, sometimes through mathematics and measuring tools.



Cubism

An artistic movement begun in 1907 by artists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque who developed a visual language whose geometric planes challenged the conventions of representation in painting, by reinventing traditional subjects such as nudes, landscapes, and still lifes as increasingly fragmented compositions.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Dada / Dadaism

An artistic and literary movement formed during the First World War as a negative response to the traditional social values and conventional artistic practices of the time. Dada artists represented a protest movement with an anti-establishment manifesto, sought to expose accepted and often repressive conventions of order and logic by shocking people into self-awareness.



Expressionism

An international artistic movement in art, architecture, literature, and performance that flourished between 1905 and 1920, especially in Germany and Austria, that sought to express the meaning of emotional experience rather than physical reality. Conventions of expressionist style include distortion, exaggeration, fantasy, and vivid, jarring, violent, or dynamic application of color in order to express the artist's inner feelings or ideas.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Fauvism

Coined by the critic Louis Vauxcelles, Fauvism (French for “wild beasts”) is a style of painting produced by a group of artists in the early 20th century. Fauvism is associated especially with Henri Matisse and André Derain, whose works are characterized by strong, vibrant color and bold brushstrokes over realistic or representational qualities.



Futurism

An Italian movement in art and literature, founded in 1909 by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, aiming to capture the dynamism, speed and energy of the modern mechanical world.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Impressionism

A 19th-century art movement, associated especially with French artists such as Claude Monet, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley, who attempted to accurately and objectively record visual ‘impressions’ by using small, thin, visible brushstrokes that coalesce to form a single scene and emphasize movement and the changing qualities of light. Being anti-academic in its formal aspects, the impressionists responded to traditions that had recently excluded them from the government-sponsored annual exhibitions called Salons by creating independent exhibitions outside of the established venues of the day.



Installation art

A form of art, developed in the late 1950s, which is characterized by large-scale, mixed-media constructions, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time. Often, installation art involves the creation of an enveloping aesthetic or sensory experience in a particular environment, often inviting active engagement or immersion by the spectator.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Land art / Earth art

Land art, also known as Earth art, Environmental art and Earthworks, is an art movement that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, characterized by works made directly in the landscape, sculpting the land itself into earthworks or making structures in the landscape using natural materials such as rocks or twigs. Land art is largely associated with Great Britain and the United States, but includes examples from many countries.



Minimalism

An artistic movement developed in the 1960s and typified by works composed of simple geometric shapes devoid of representational content. The minimal vocabulary of forms made from humble industrial materials challenged traditional notions of craftsmanship, the illusion of spatial depth in painting, and the idea that a work of art must be one of a kind.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Neo-Impressionism

A term applied to an avant-garde art movement that flourished principally in France from 1886 to 1906. Led by the example of Georges Seurat and Paul Signac, the Neo-Impressionists renounced the spontaneity of Impressionism in favor of a measured and systematic painting technique grounded in science and the study of optics.



Neoclassicism

A style that arose in the second half of the eighteenth century in Europe, drawing inspiration from the classical art and culture of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Performance art

A term that emerged in the 1960s to describe artworks that are created through actions performed by the artist or other participants, which may be live or recorded, spontaneous or scripted. Performance challenges the conventions of traditional forms of visual art such as painting and sculpture by embracing a variety of styles such as happenings, body art, actions, and events.



Pointillism

A technique of painting developed by French painters Georges-Pierre Seurat and Paul Signac characterized by works made of countless tiny dots of pure color applied in patterns to form an image.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Pop art

A movement that emerged in the 1950s, composed of British and American artists, who draw inspiration from 'popular' imagery and products from popular and commercial culture, opposed to 'elitist' fine art. Pop art reached its peak of activity in the 1960s, emphasizing the banal or kitschy elements of everyday life in such forms as mechanically reproduced silkscreens, large-scale facsimiles, and soft sculptures.



Post-Impressionism

A term coined in 1910 by the English art critic and painter Roger Fry to describe the reaction against the naturalistic depiction of light and color in Impressionism. Led by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, and Georges Seurat, who all developed a personal, distinctive style, were unified by their interest in expressing their emotional and psychological responses to the world through bold colors and expressive, often symbolic images.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Rococo

A style of art, particularly in architecture and decorative art, that originated in France in the early 1700s and is marked by elaborate ornamentation and a light, sensuous style, including scroll work, foliage, and animal forms.



Surrealism

Founded by the poet André Breton in Paris in 1924, Surrealism was an artistic and literary movement which was active through World War II. Surrealism's goal was to liberate thought, language, and human experience from the oppressive boundaries of rationalism by championing the irrational, the poetic and the revolutionary.

Important Art Movements To Remember



Suprematism

A term coined by Russian artist Kazimir Malevich in 1915 to describe an abstract style of painting that conforms to his belief that art expressed in the simplest geometric forms and dynamic compositions was superior to earlier forms of representational art, leading to the “supremacy of pure feeling or perception in the pictorial arts.”

Top 10 Artists / Painters of all time



1. Leonardo Da Vinci (1452–1519) Renaissance painter, scientist, inventor, and more. Da Vinci is one of most famous painters in the world for his iconic Mona Lisa and Last Supper.



2. Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890). Dutch post-impressionist painter.

Famous paintings include; Sunflowers, The Starry night, and Cafe Terrace at Night.

Important Art Movements To Remember



3. Rembrandt (1606–1669) Dutch Master. One of the greatest painters, admired for his vivid realism.

Famous paintings include *The Jewish Bride* and *The Storm of the Sea of Galilee*.



4. Michelangelo (1475–1564) Renaissance sculptor, painter and architect.

Famous paintings include his epic ceiling mural on the Sistine Chapel.



5. Claude Monet (1840–1926) French impressionist painter. ; Famous paintings include *Waterlilies*, *Women in Garden*, and *Impression Sunrise*.



6. Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) Spanish, modern 'cubist' painter.

Famous works include *Guernica* and *Bird of Peace*.



7. Raphael (1483–1520) Italian painter. Raphael, da Vinci and Michelangelo make up the high Renaissance trinity.

Famous paintings include *Mond Crucifixion* and *The Wedding of the Virgin*.

Important Art Movements To Remember



8. August Renoir (1841–1919) French painter, one of the early pioneers of impressionism. Also influenced by Italian renaissance.

Famous works include Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette and On the Terrace.



9. Jan Vermeer (1632–1675) Dutch painter who specialised in genre painting – vivid depictions of still life.

Famous paintings include :

View of Delft, Girl With a Pearl Earring, and The Milkmaid.



10. Paul Cezanne (1839–1906) French post-impressionist painter.

Famous paintings include:

The Card Players and Still Life with a Curtain.

More Art And Artists

Henri Matisse

No artist is as closely tied to the sensual pleasures of color as Henri Matisse. His work was all about sinuous curves rooted in the traditions of figurative art, and was always focused on the beguiling pleasures of pigment and hue. “I am not a revolutionary by principle,” he once said. “What I dream of is an art of balance, of purity and serenity, devoid of troubling or depressing subject matter...a soothing, calming influence on the mind, something like a good armchair.”

Famous Works: Woman with a hat, Woman reading

Important Art Movements To Remember

Jackson Pollock

Hampered by alcoholism, self-doubt and clumsiness as a conventional painter, Pollock transcended his limitations in a brief but incandescent period between 1947 and 1950 when he produced the drip abstractions that cemented his renown. Eschewing the easel to lay his canvases flat on the floor, he used house paint straight from the can, flinging and dribbling thin skeins of pigment that left behind a concrete record of his movements—a technique that would become known as action painting.

Works : Abstract Expressionism- Autumn rhythm, blue poles

Edvard Munch

I scream, you scream we all scream for Munch's *The Scream*, the Mona Lisa of anxiety. In 2012, a pastel version of Edvard Munch's iconic evocation of modern angst fetched a then-astronomical price of \$120 million at auction (a benchmark which has since been bested several times). Munch's career was more than just a single painting. He's generally acknowledged as the precursor to Expressionism, influencing artists such 20th-century artists as Egon Schiele, Erich Heckel and Max Beckmann.

Famous work – *The Scream*

Gustav Klimt

The fin de siècle Viennese Symbolist painter Gustav Klimt is known for using gold leaf, something he picked up on while visiting the famous Byzantine frescoes in Ravenna Italy. He most famously put the idea to use in his masterpiece, *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*—also known as Austria's Mona Lisa—a painting looted by the Nazis during World War II. The story of its eventual return to its rightful owner served as the basis of the film, *Woman In Gold*, starring Helen Mirren. Another Klimt painting, *The Kiss*, is equally iconic.

Famous Work : *The tree of life* , *The Kiss*

Salvador Dalí

Dalí was effectively Warhol before there was a Warhol. Like Andy, Dalí courted celebrity almost as an adjunct to his work. With their melting watches and eerie blasted landscapes, Dalí's paintings were the epitome of Surrealism, and he cultivated an equally outlandish appearance, wearing a long waxed mustache that resembled cat whiskers. Ever the consummate showman, Dalí once declared, "I am not strange. I am just not normal."

Works: *The Persistence of Memory*, *Galatea of the Spheres* and *The Great Masturbator*. Salvador Dalí. *The Burning Giraffe* (1937) *Tuna Fishing* (1967) *The Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee* (1944) *Galatea of the Spheres* (1952) *Metamorphosis of Narcissus* (1937)

Important Art Movements To Remember

Andy Warhol

Technically, Warhol didn't invent Pop Art, but he became the Pope of Pop by taking the style out of the art world and bringing it into the world of fashion and celebrity. Starting out as a commercial artist, he brought the ethos of advertising into fine art, even going so far as to say, "Making money is art." Such sentiments blew away the existential pretensions of Abstract Expressionism. Although he's famous for subjects such as Campbell's Soup, Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley, his greatest creation was himself.

Frida Kahlo

The Mexican artist and feminist icon was a performance artist of paint, using the medium to lay bare her vulnerabilities while also constructing a persona of herself as an embodiment of Mexico's cultural heritage. Her most famous works are the many surrealistic self-portraits in which she maintains a regal bearing even as she casts herself as a martyr to personal and physical suffering—anguishes rooted in a life of misfortunes that included contracting polio as a child, suffering a catastrophic injury as a teenager, and enduring a tumultuous marriage to fellow artist Diego Rivera.

Top Twenty Paintings by **Claude Monet (1840-1926)** in chronological order:

1. 'The Terrace at Sainte-Adresse', 1866.
2. 'Women in the Garden', 1866-67.
3. 'Bathers at La Grenouillère', 1869
4. 'Impression Sunrise', 1872.
5. 'Regatta at Argenteuil', 1872.
6. 'Wild Poppies', 1873.
7. 'Woman with a Parasol: Madame Monet and Her Son' 1875
8. 'La Gare St. Lazare', 1877.
9. 'La Rue Saint-Denis: Celebration of June 30', 1878.
10. 'Bordighera', 1884.
11. 'The Manneporte near Étretat', 1886.
12. 'Haystacks: White Frost Sunrise', 1889.
13. 'Poplars', 1891.
14. 'Rouen Cathedral', 1893.
15. 'The Water Lily Pond: Green Harmony', 1899.
16. 'Irises in Monet's Garden', 1900.
17. 'Houses of Parliament: Sunset', 1904.
18. 'The Doge's Palace, Venice', 1908.
19. 'Water Lilies', 1919.
20. 'Water Lilies - The Clouds': Musée de l'Orangerie, 1914-26

Top Twenty Paintings by **Rembrandt (1606-1669)** in chronological order:

1. 'The Artist in his Studio', 1628 (oil on canvas)

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2. 'Self Portrait' 1628/29 (oil on panel)
3. 'An Old Man in Military Costume', c.1631 (oil on panel)
4. 'Portrait of Nicolaes Ruts', 1631 (oil on panel)
5. 'The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp', 1632 (oil on canvas)
6. 'Christ in the Storm on the Lake of Galilee', 1633 (oil on canvas)
7. 'Saskia van Uylenburgh in Arcadian Costume', 1635 (oil on canvas)
8. 'Rembrandt and Saskia in the Parable of the Prodigal Son', c.1637 (oil on canvas)
9. 'The Night Watch', 1642 (oil on canvas)
10. 'The Mill', 1645/48 (oil on canvas)
11. 'The Rest on The Flight into Egypt', 1647 (oil on panel)
12. 'Aristotle with a Bust of Homer' 1653 (oil on canvas)
13. 'Woman Bathing in a Stream', 1654 (oil on panel)
14. 'The Slaughtered Ox', 1655 (oil on canvas)
15. 'Self Portrait as the Apostle Paul', 1661 (oil on canvas)
16. 'Portrait of Margarethe de Geer, Wife of Jacob Trip', 1661 (oil on canvas)
17. 'Portrait of the Artist', 1665 (oil on canvas)
18. 'The Return of the Prodigal Son', c.1667 (oil on canvas)
19. 'The Jewish Bride', 1667 (oil on canvas)
20. 'Self Portrait', 1669 (oil on canvas)

FEW MORE MOVEMENTS

Futurism



Important Art Movements To Remember

Perhaps one of the most controversial movements of the Modernist era was Futurism, which, at a cursory glance, likened humans to machines and vice versa in order to embrace change, speed, and innovation in society while discarding artistic and cultural forms and traditions of the past. However, at the center of the Futurist platform was an endorsement of war and misogyny. Futurism—coined in a 1909 manifesto by Filippo Marinetti—was not limited to just one art form, but in fact was embraced by sculptors, architects, painters, and writers. Paintings were typically of automobiles, trains, animals, dancers, and large crowds; and painters borrowed the fragmented and intersecting planes from Cubism in combination with the vibrant and expressive colors of Fauvism in order to glorify the virtues of speed and dynamic movement. Writers focused on ridding their poetry of what they saw as unnecessary elements such as adjectives and adverbs so that the emphasis could rest on the action of infinitive verbs. This technique in conjunction with the integration of mathematical symbols allowed them to make more declarative statements with a great sense of audacity. Although originally ardent in their affirmation of the virtues of war, the Futurists lost steam as the devastation of WWI became realized.

Vorticism



A specifically English artistic movement, since its mouthpiece was the famed London-based magazine *Blast*, Vorticism followed in the same vein as Futurism in that it relished in the innovative advances of the machine age and embraced the possible virtues of dynamic change that were to follow. It was founded right before the start of WWI by the celebrated painter Wyndham Lewis and the ubiquitous poet of the Modernist period Ezra Pound. However, whereas the Futurists originated in

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France and Italy and then sprawled out over the continent to Russia, Vorticism remained local in London. Vorticists prided themselves on being independent of similar movements. In their literature, they utilized bare-bones vocabulary that resonated in likeness to the mechanical forms found in English shipyards and factories, and, in their writings as well as their paintings, Vorticists espoused abstraction as the only way to sever ties with the dominant and suffocating Victorian past so that they could advance to a new era. However, Vorticism, like Futurism, struggled to cope with the incomprehensible destruction during WWI that was a result of the new machines which they so highly praised. As WWI came to an end and valued Vorticists, namely T.E. Hulme and Gaudier-Brzeska, died in action, Vorticism shriveled to a small few by the beginning of the 1920s.

- **Constructivism**



As Cubism and Futurism spread west to Russia at the end of the 1910s, they were absorbed into the utopian spirit of the October Revolution, thus creating a new art movement known as Constructivism, which embraced theory that art should be “constructed” from modern industrial materials such as plastic, steel, and glass in order to serve a societal purpose instead of merely making an abstract statement. Often credited with serving as the impetus for the movement is Vladimir Tatlin, who in 1913, while studying in Paris, was highly influenced by the geometric constructions of Picasso. After migrating back to Russia, he, along with Antoine Pevsner and Naum Gabo, published the *Realist Manifesto* in 1920, which, like the Futurists and Vorticists, declared an admiration of machines and technology as well as their functionalism. One of the most iconic artworks of this movement is Tatlin’s *Monument for the Third International* (1919–20), a strangely spiral-shaped structure that was intended to serve as a government building. Most Constructivists, like Tatlin, thought painting to be a “dead” art form, unless it was to serve as a blueprint for something to be physically built. Therefore, they worked mainly with

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ceramics, fashion design, graphics, and in architecture. As Soviet opposition to their movement increased, many Constructivists fled from Russia and inspired the movement in Western countries such as Germany, France, and England, where they gained a great deal of significance.

Suprematism

Another uniquely Russian Modernist movement was Suprematism, started conjointly with Constructivism, though with a stronger emphasis and embracement of the abstraction capable by painting on a canvas. It is denoted as the first movement to utilize pure geometrical abstraction in painting. Kazimir Malevich is viewed as its founder, as he, along with the input of many of his contemporaries, authored the Suprematist manifesto. The movement's name originated from a quote of Malevich's, in which he stated that the movement would inspire the "supremacy of pure feeling or perception in the pictorial arts." His central goal was to break art down to its bare bones, often employing basic shapes, such as squares, triangles, and circles, as well as primary and neutral colors. As he progressed in his work, Malevich included more colors and shapes, but he epitomized the movement in his "White on White" paintings in which a faintly outlined square is just barely visible. Suprematism was often imbued with spiritual and mystic undertones that added to its abstraction, and, as was the case with Constructivism, the movement essentially came to complete end as Soviet oppression increased.