



# Art Appreciation

## Week 1 — The Visual World

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation

## Art Appreciation

**Instructor:** Professor James S. Cost, MFA Art

**Cel Phone:** (806) 206-0099

**Email:** [jscost@actx.edu](mailto:jscost@actx.edu)

**Personal web site:** [www.stevencost.com](http://www.stevencost.com)

**Question:** What do you wish to achieve in Art Appreciation? Two questions that are often asked comes from just about everyone, and especially educational institutions such as this one:

What is Art?

What is it good for?

**Question:** What do you wish to achieve in Art Appreciation? How will you use your new knowledge in the future?

What problems can we try to solve in the course?

We won't be making art in the class, but we will learn how art is made. We will use our textbook, other books, the instructor's lectures and our shared art experiences. Also we will view many videos. We will look at art in the Amarillo Museum of Art, which is on campus.

What problems can we try to solve in the course?

**What would we do?** What if ART was damaged, such as the incident when a person knocked off part of Michaelangelo's Pieta statue with a hammer? Or partially destroyed, such as the recent fire in the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France? What if ART was being stolen, such as by the Nazis in World War II?

Many of us in the class have seen art in special places. You may come from another city or country, or have traveled. Would you be willing to share what art, monuments, architecture, and more — that you have seen from your own experience?

Do you have photos or videos?

What other learning methods should we use in our class?

Take A look at Our Visual World.





Click on  
image for  
video

**Doug Aitkens, *Sleepwalkers*, Museum of Modern Art 2007  
New York City**

Question: What is the purpose of Doug Aitken's installation *Sleepwalkers*?

Why is it being projected on the outside walls of the New York Museum of Modern Art ?

From where does the money come?

Why would big money be spent on this?



**Cai Guo-Qiang, Footprints of History: Fireworks Project for the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games**



Click on  
image for  
video

**Cai Guo-Qiang, Project to extend the Great Wall of China  
Gobi Desert, February 27, 1993**

How we see and process art.

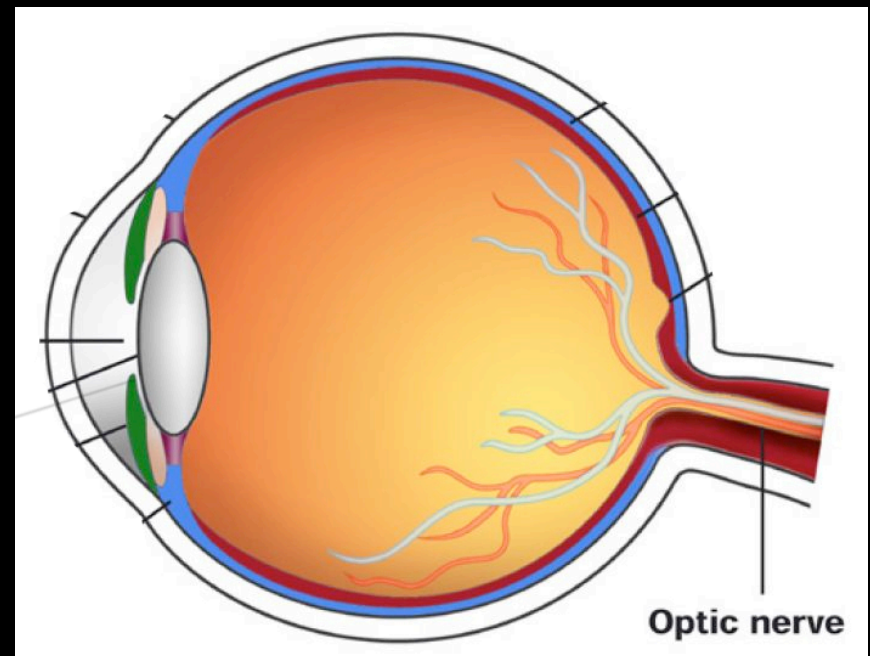
In the process of seeing art, the act is not just a direct recording of the reality. Seeing is both a physical and psychological process. Physically, visual processing can be divided into three steps. They are:

reception —> extraction —> inference

**RECEPTON:** light enters the eye — seeing with nervous system.

**EXTRACTION:** sensors in the retina edit the light.

**INFERENCE:** visual cortex processes the information the retina sends it.



**Richard Hass**

**Trompe-l'oeil illusion**  
painting on the exterior  
of the Oregon Historical  
Society Headquarters.

In this case, the purpose  
is to recreate the  
architecture by painting  
and illusion on the  
building, without  
rebuilding or modifying  
the structure.







Using “active seeing ” Jasper Johns uses the image of the American Flag to see in a new way, filtering our perception through history, fears, prejudices, emotions, and beliefs.

The Elements of Design are with what we design and make art:

Shape

Tonal Value

Line

Texture

Color

Composition is another word for Design.  
Composition is accomplished by applying  
the Principles of Design:

Emphasis

Variety

Contrast

Rhythm

Balance

Movement

Directon

Harmony

All people are or can be creative, but not all people possess the **energy, ingenuity, and courage** of conviction that are required to make art.

While differing from culture to culture and from time to time, the term, “Aesthetic,” refers to our sense of the beautiful.

The art term “CONTENT” is used to define what a work of art expresses or means (or suggests to the viewer’s imagination).

When we speak of the “**FORM**” of a work of art, we mean everything from the materials used to make it, to the way it employs the various formal elements , to the principles — the ways in which those elements are organized into a composition. It is the overall structure of a work of art.



Click on  
image for  
video

Discuss the **Form** and **Content** of Jacques Louis David's  
*The Death of Socrates, 1787*



Iconography or “**ICON**” is the term used when cultural conventions are often carried forward from one generation to the next by means of a system of visual images the meaning of which is widely understood by a given culture?



Photo by  
Steven Cost  
Florence, Italy  
2015

An ICON of Western European art: *David* by  
Michaelangelo Buonarroti, marble, Florence 1504.  
My students literally wept with emotion when they  
approached. Why would they do that?



FORM: What are the art arrangements, techniques, and size and other elements and principles in *David*? For instance why are the hands larger than normal?



Click on  
image for  
video

**CONTENT:** What is the story, meaning and message David? Where is Goliath? Why is David nude?

Most artists think of themselves as assuming one of four fundamental roles—or some combination of the four—as they approach their work. Those four roles are:

1. Artists create a visual record of their time and place.

2. Artists help us to see the world in new and innovative ways.

3. Artists make functional objects and structures more pleasurable by instilling them with beauty and meaning.

4. Artists give form to non-material ideas and feelings



Should art be made to SELL, or is it alright to make art for the need or pleasure of doing so, even if it never commissioned or sells?

How is the value and price of art determined?

Among other ways, the relative rarity of a work of art on the art market, the economy, and the participation of of wealthy clients through their investment, ownership, and patronage.

How is the value and price of art determined?

Also art showing in prestigious art galleries, art museums, and art auction houses. Sometimes it is simply determined by how much a buyer wants the art or how much or little the seller wants to price it.

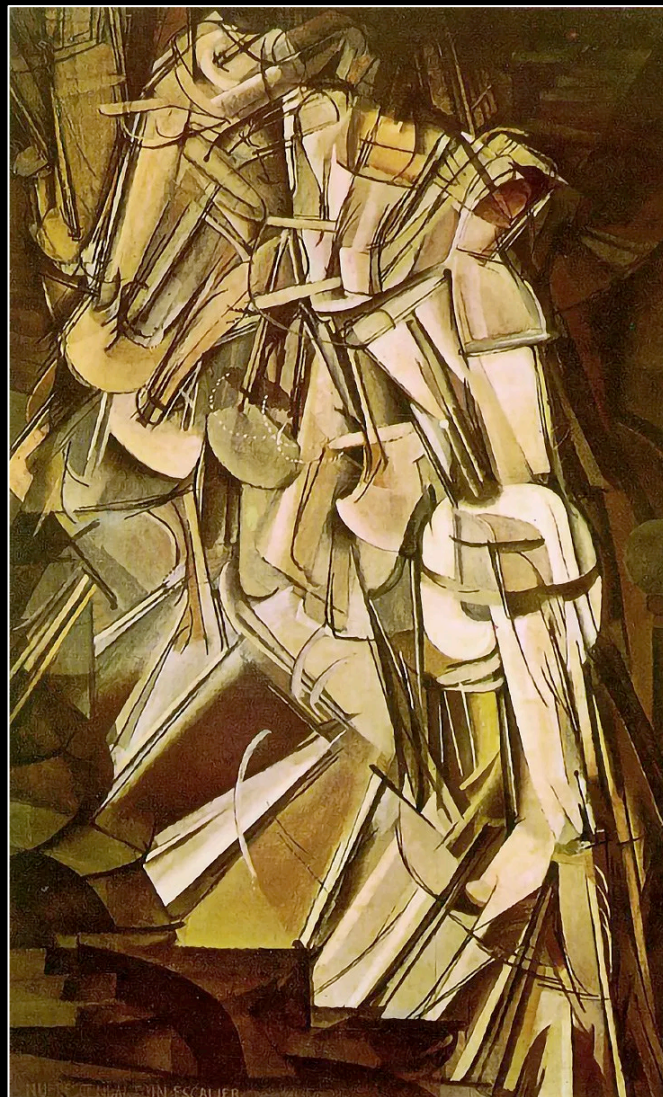
How is the value and price of art determined?

Sometimes art is made for other reasons than to be sold. If making the art is expensive, then patron may donate through grants to help artists create the art.

Generally, we refer to works of art as either REPRESENTATIONAL (such as realism) or ABSTRACT.



REPRESENTATIONAL art: *Assumption of the Virgin*  
by Titian



ABSTRACT art: *Nude Descending a Staircase* by Marcell Dechamp

The Process of Seeing  
From Hyper-realistic Naturalism to  
Nonobjective Abstractions



# Development toward Abstraction

## Naturalism

Fully representational.  
(Very objective)



## Realism

Representational  
yet emphasizing the  
emotional.  
(More subjective)



## Semi-abstract

Partly representational  
but simplified and  
rearranged.



## Abstract

Objective:  
Based on a realistic  
subject, but visually  
appears nonobjective.

Non-objective:  
Non-representational,  
started without any  
reference to subject  
and assuming artistic  
value reside in form  
and content  
completely.



# Hyper Reality Art



[Click on image for Video](#)

**Sidewalk Trompe l'oeil by Edmund Mueller**



**Tompe l'oeil by Chatsworth House, *Violin*, oil on panel**



**Tompe l'oeil**



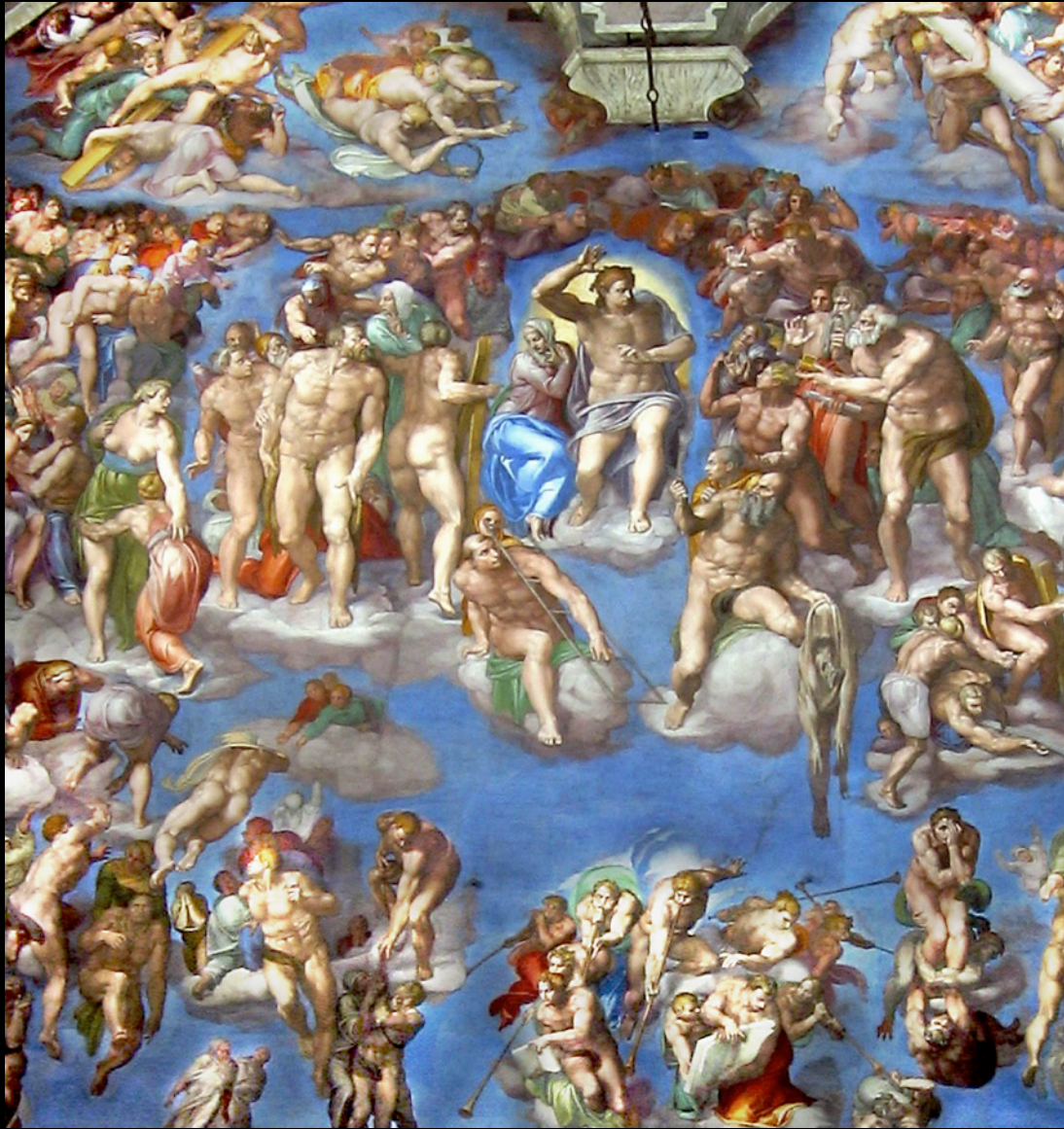
Peter Aertsen, *Butcher's Stall with the Flight into Egypt*  
Oil on wood panel, 1551

# Representation Art



Albert Bierstadt, *Puget Sound on the Pacific Coast*, 1870 6' x 4'





Michaelangelo, Sistine Chapel Alter Wall



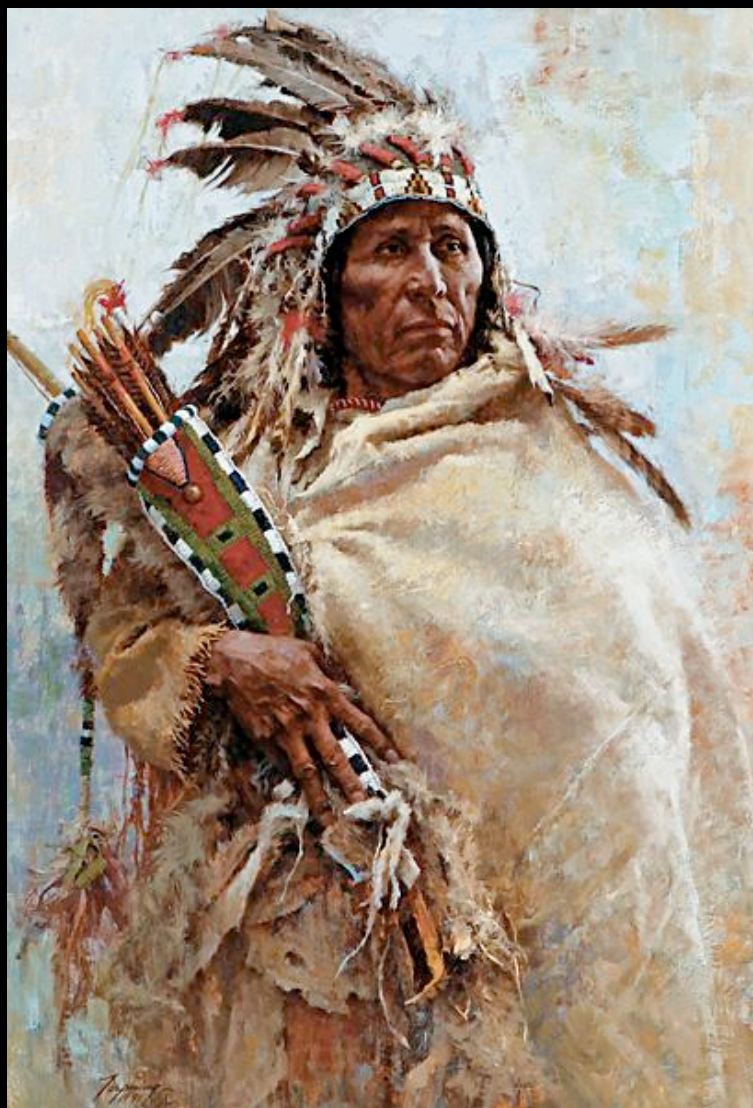
Steven Cost, *Milk Cans and Pumpkins*, collection of Dr. Pablo Diaz,  
acrylics on panel



Steven Cost, *Conch on the Beach*, acrylics on paper 2014



Johannes Vermeer, *The Art of Painting*, Oil on canvas, Dutch 1665



Howard Terpning, *Leader of Menby*, oil 1977

# Surrealism Art



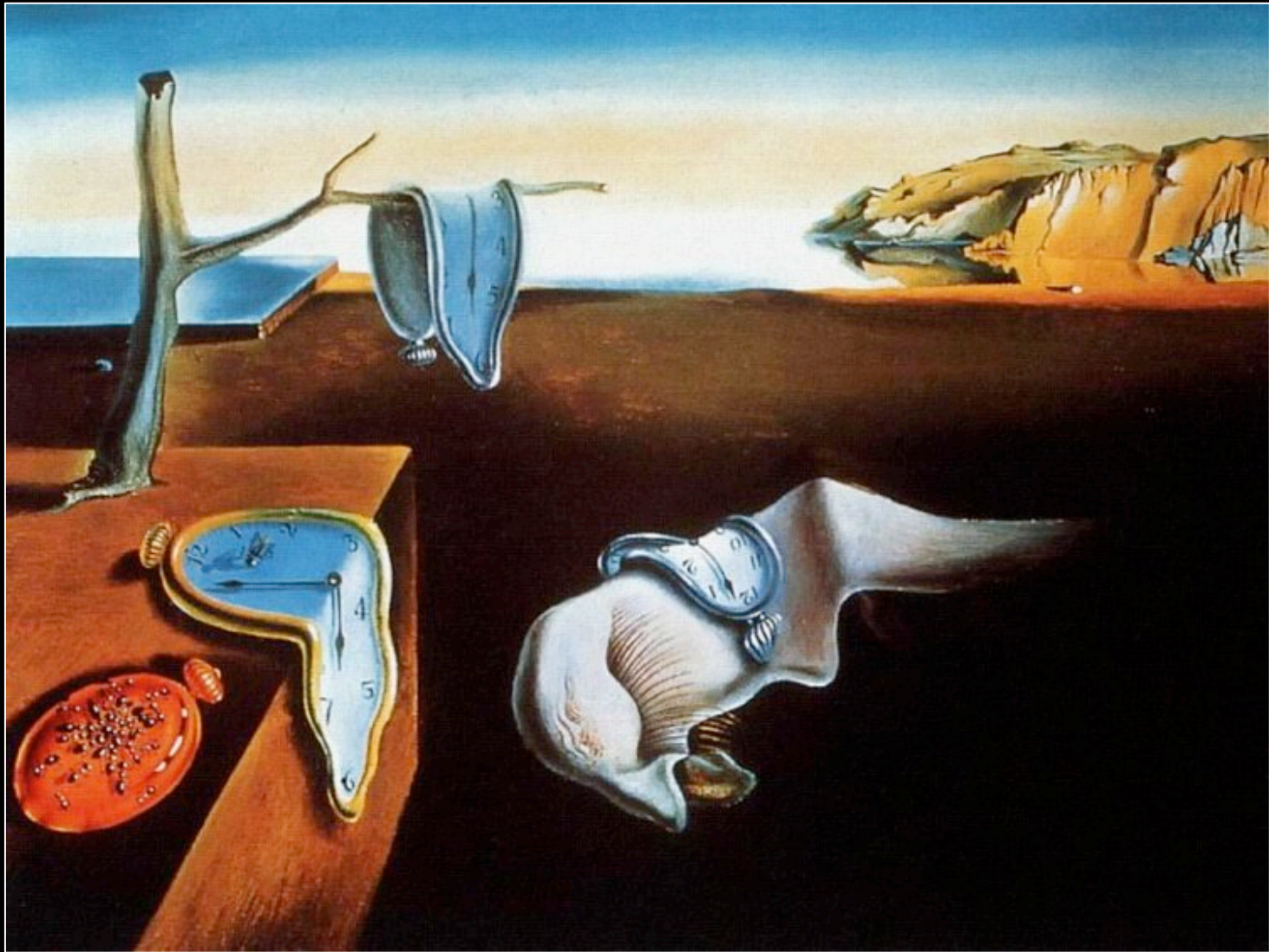
Marsha Shrader, *The Dream*, acrylics on canvas, Amarillo 2015



[Click on image for Video](#)

Rene Magritte, *The Son of Man*, oil on canvas, Belgium 1940

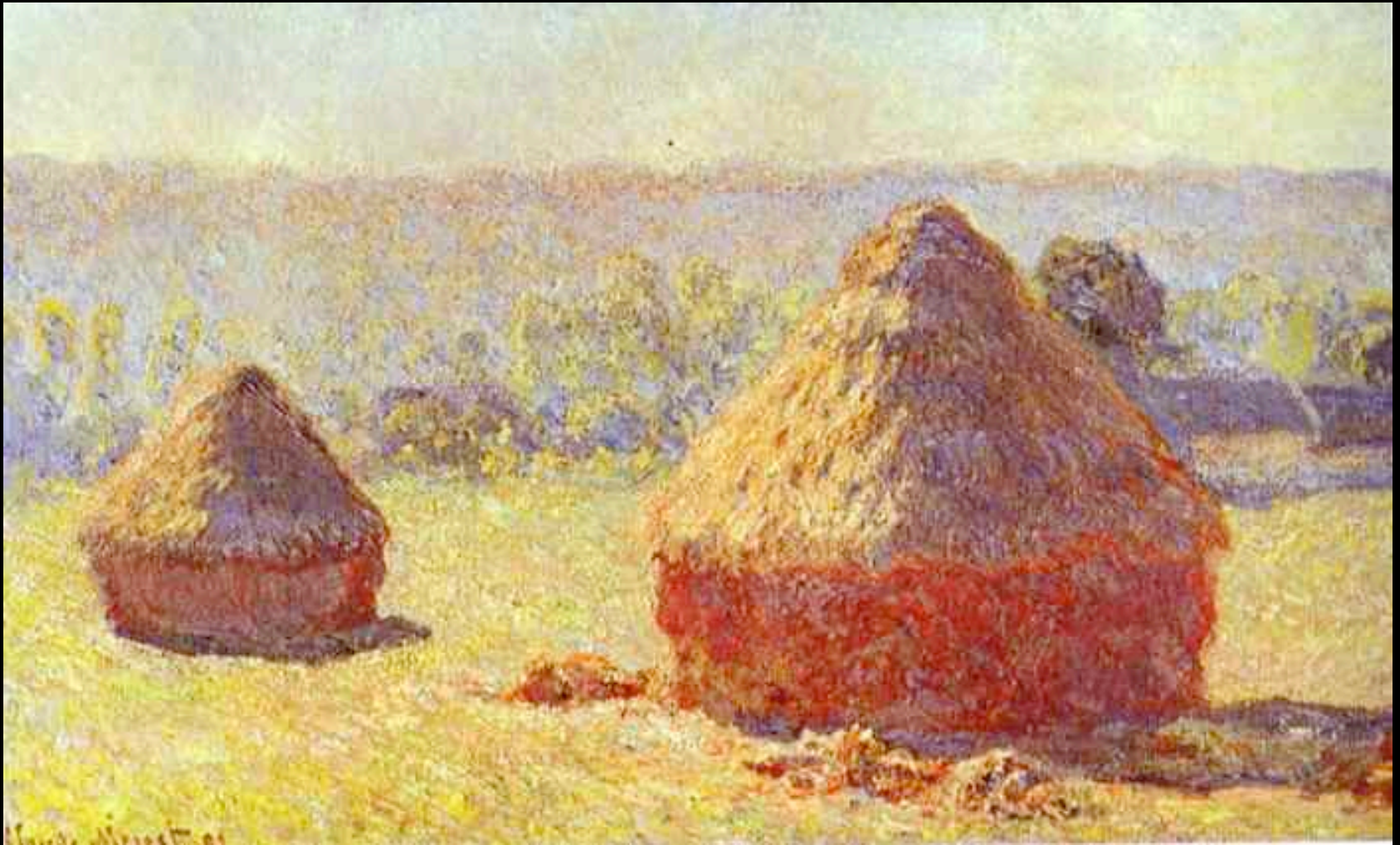




[Click on image for Video](#)

Salvador Dalí, *The Persistence of Memory*, oil on canvas,  
Spain 1931

# Impressionistic Art



[Click on image for Video](#)

**Claude Monet, *Haystacks — End of the Summer Morning*, 1891**



[Click on image for Video](#)

**Claude Monet, *Woman with a Parasol*, 1875**



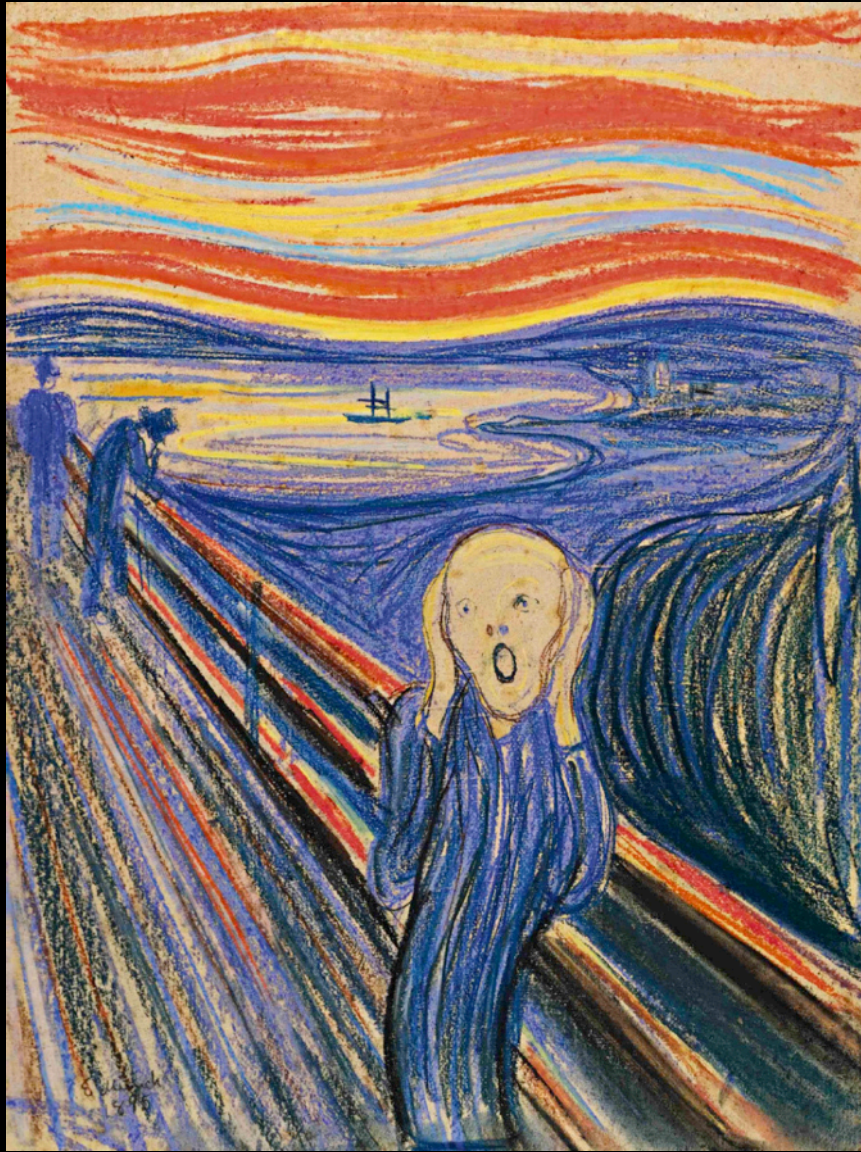
[Click on image for Video](#)

**Vincent van Gogh, *The Night Cafe*, 1889**



Vincent van Gogh, *Starry Night*, 1889

# Expressionistic Art



[Click on image for Video](#)

**Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, Norway 1893**





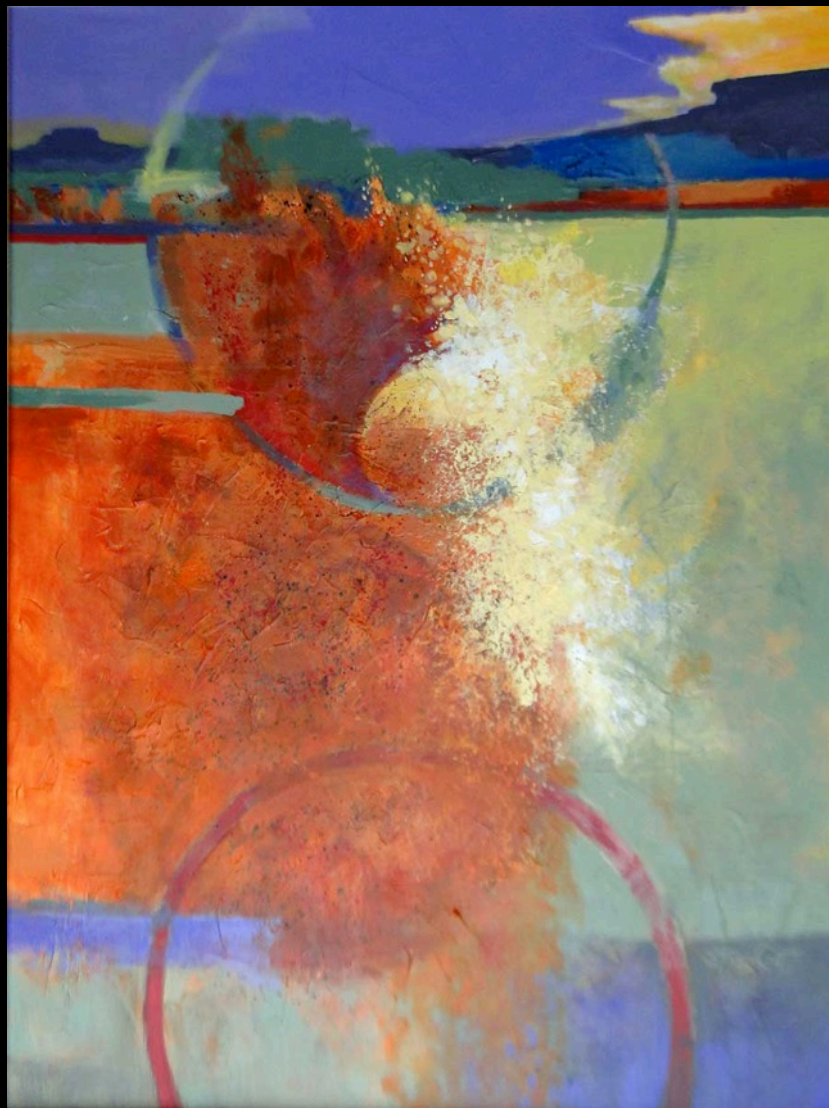
[Click on image for Video](#)

**Marshal Arisman, *Revenge of Permanent Wave*, USA 1995**



**Kevin Casto, *Lowering Jesus from the Cross*, USA 1995  
acrylics on canvas**

Semi-abstract Art



Steven Cost, *Don Carlos*, acrylics on canvas 2017



Steven Cost, *Jazz Quartet*, acrylics on canvas 2015



Steven Cost, *Capri Cliffs*, acrylics on canvas 2015



Wolf Kahn, *Afterglow 1*, 1974



[Click on image for Video](#)

Georgia O'Keeffe, *Pendernal*, oil on canvas 1936

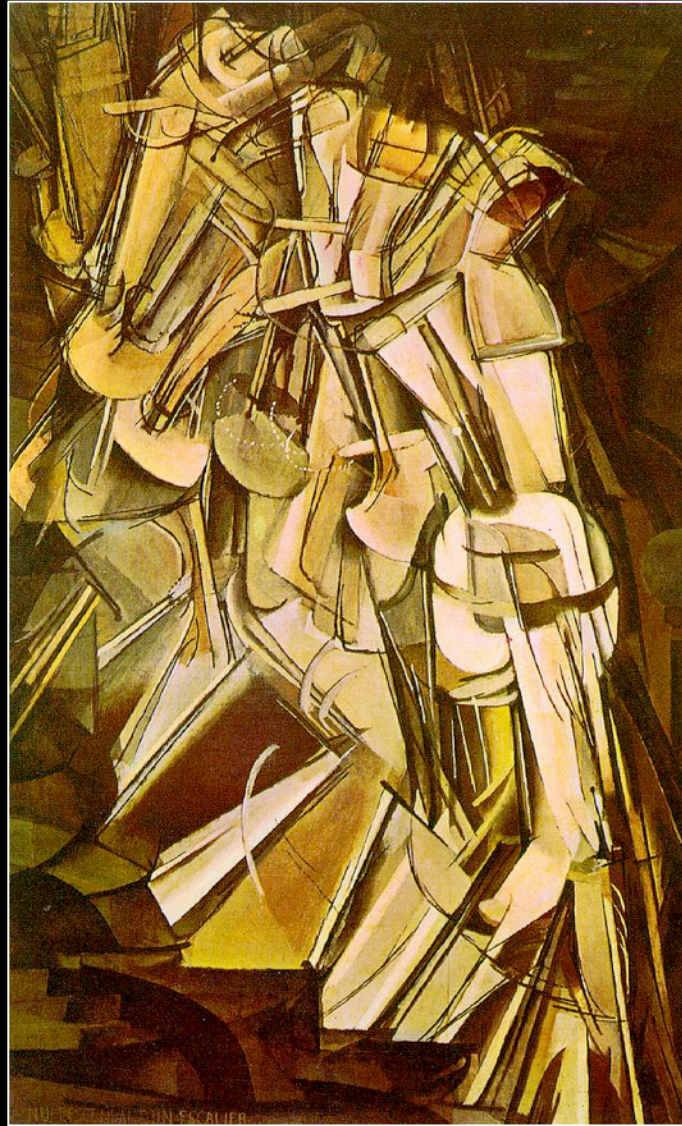


# Abstract Art



[Click on image for Video](#)

Georgia O'Keeffe *Train at Night in the Desert,*  
Canyon, Texas 1916



Click on  
image for  
video

[Click on image for Video](#)

**Marcel Duchamp, *Nude Descending a Staircase* 1912**

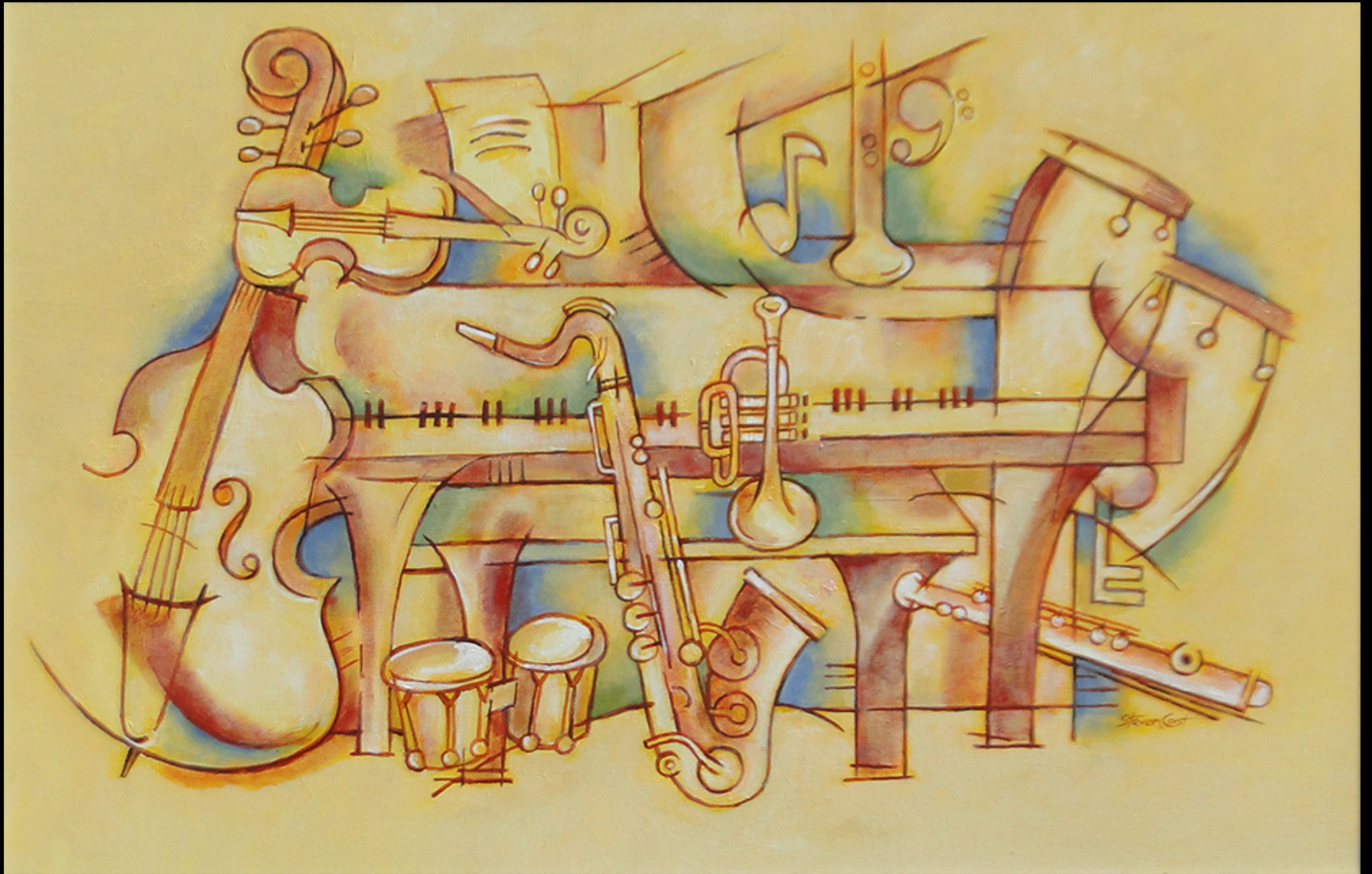


Click on  
image for  
video

**Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, Spain 1937**



**Pablo Picasso, *Three Musicians*, Spain 1921**



***Ensemble* by Steven Cost, acrylics, 36" x 24"**

# Non-objective Abstract Art



[Click on image for Video](#)

Kazimir Malevich, *Black Square*, Russia 1919

Click on  
image for  
video



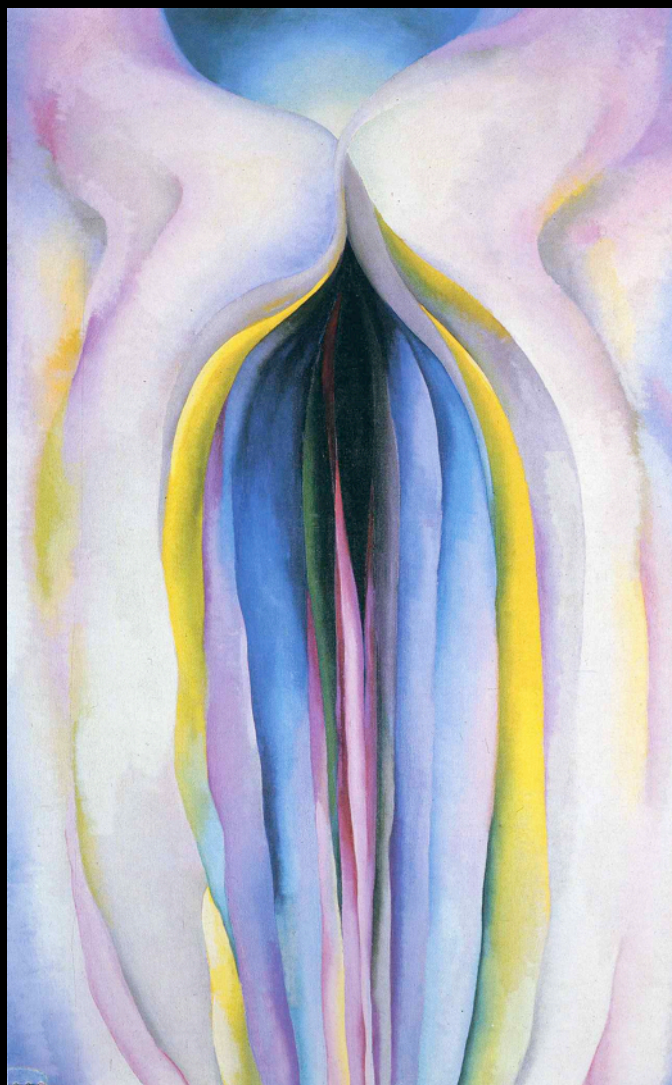


Click on  
image for  
video

Lithographic propaganda poster by Lazar Lissitzki, *Beat the Whites with the Red Wedge*, Russia 1919



Steven Cost, *The Source of Everything*, acrylics on paper 2017



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Gray Line with Black, Blue and Yellow*, oil  
on canvas 1923

Through his entire career, from his portrayal of a brothel in his 1907 *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. Version O)*, Pablo Picasso represented his relation to women as a sort of battlefield between attraction and repulsion.



Pablo Picasso, *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O)* 1907



Mick Tjakamarra, *Honey Art Dreaming*, 1982

A young art teacher named Geoff Bardon arrived in Australia in 1971. Australian Aboriginal men became interested in Bardon's classes. Between 1977 and 1979, they moved from small works to large-scale canvases. One of them, Old Mick Tjakamarra, made a painting *Honey Art Dreaming*, that depicts the landscape of Papunya Tula, Australia..

Is art of so-called higher civilizations  
better than art of more primitive  
cultures?





John Taylor, *Treaty Signing at Medicine Lodge Creek*,  
engraving 1867



Click on  
image for  
video

Howling Wolf, *Treaty Signing at Medicine Lodge Creek*,  
ledger book painting 1878

How does art reflect on a society?

How does one determine if a work of  
art is good?

Is art limited to painting, drawing, and sculpture? What other art forms are there?

# Installations

Large works of art that invites the viewer to enter and move around it or inside it, to be seen from various view points, and participate and interact with it



Click on  
image for  
video

**Ant Farm, *Cadillac Ranch*, Amarillo, Texas 1974  
Installation commissioned by Stanley Marsh 3**



**Lightnin' McDuff, *Ozymandias*, Amarillo 1997 steel and concrete, Installation commissioned by Stanley Marsh 3**



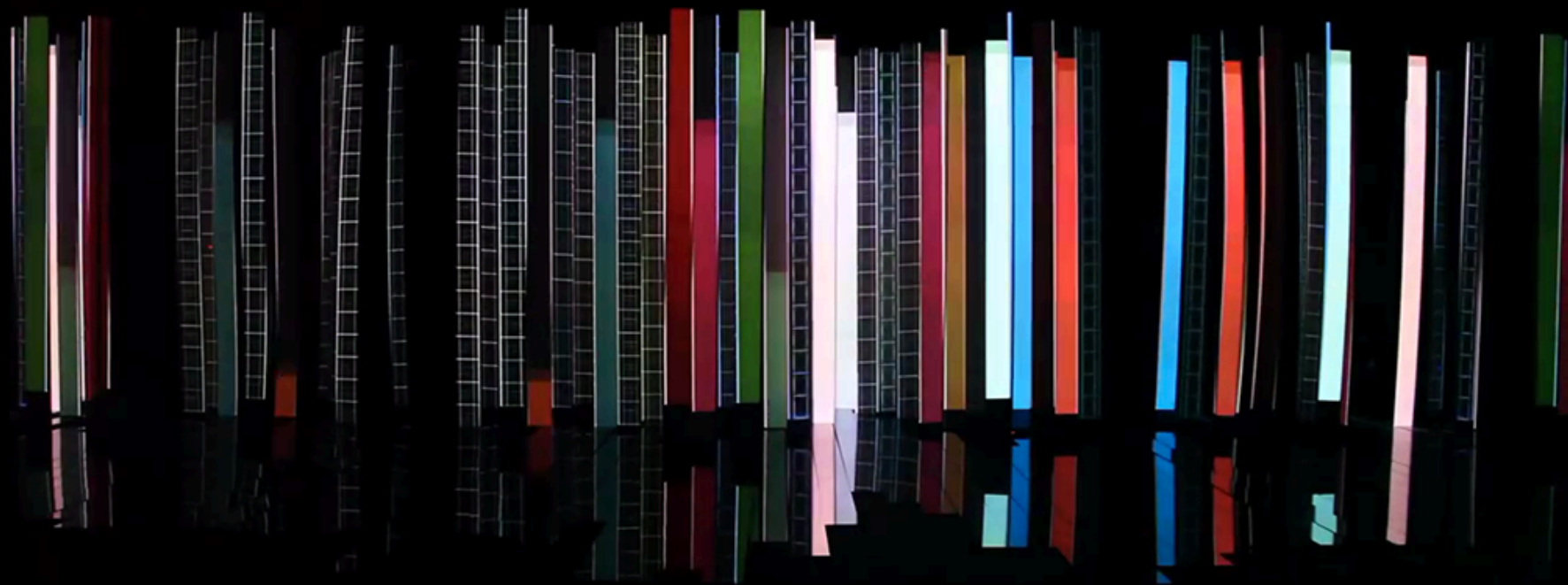


**Installation Art**

Click on  
image for  
video

# Ephemeral Art

Art that is made of substances that are temporary in nature such as a performance, ice, stacked stones, light show and fireworks.



## Ephemeral Art — Installation Light Show

Click on  
image for  
video



Richard Shilling, stone construction *Balance*



**Emphemeral art in Colorado Springs**



**Ice sculptures**



**Fish sculpters made of discarded plastic bottle, botofogo Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**



**Burning Man, Iron Rock, Nevada**

Click on  
image for  
video





**Pink Floyd Concert Light Show**

Click on  
image for  
video



# Defqon.1 Weekend Festival 2018

Click on  
image for  
video



## ER Productions at LDI 2017

Click on  
image for  
video



## 10 Best Fireworks of 2019

Click on  
image for  
video

# Earth Works

Art that made from the earth or using the earth as a major proponent.



Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty, 1970

**Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, California 1970**

Click on  
image for  
video



**Robert Smithson, *Amarillo Ramp*, Amarillo, Texas 1973**

Click on  
image for  
video



**Commissioned by Stanley Marsh 3, *Floating Measa*,  
Amarillo, Texas 1981**

Click on  
image for  
video



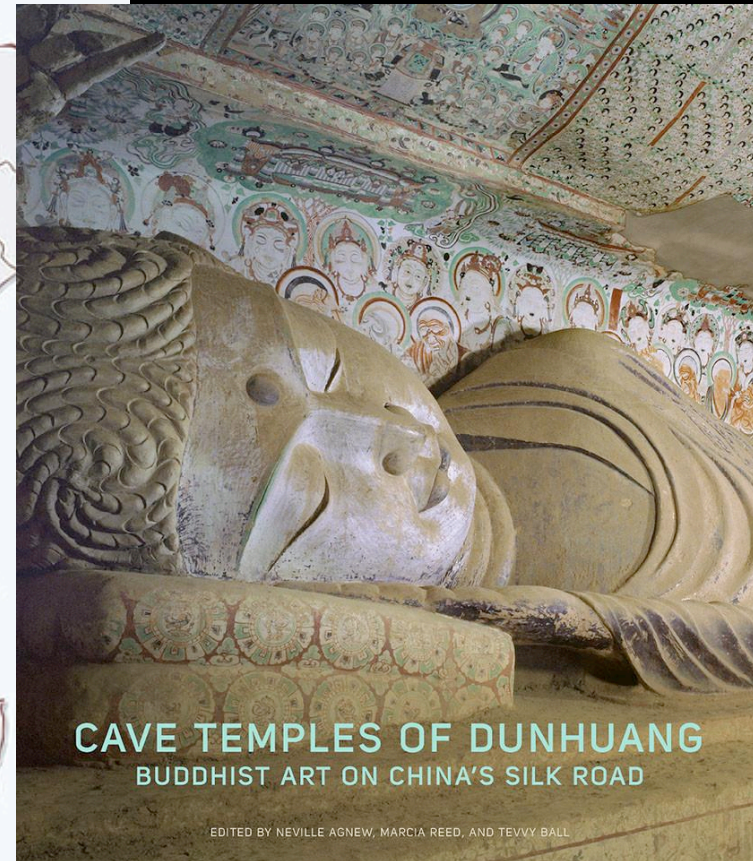


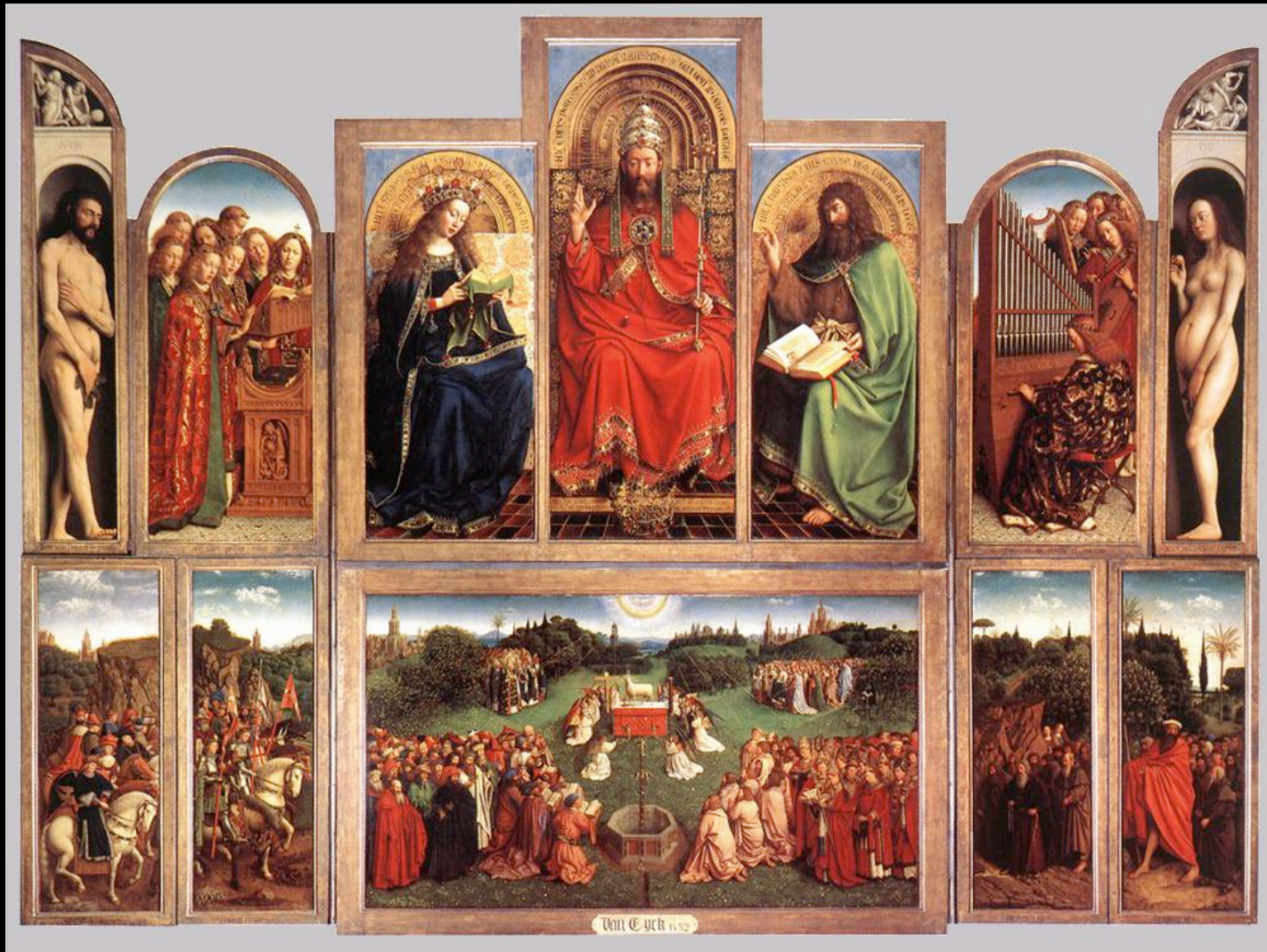
**Walter de Maria The Lightning Field,  
New Mexico 1977**

# Cultural Interpretations

At the terminus of the Silk Road, since the time of the Han Dynasty (206 bce–220 current era), **Dunhuang** was the place where the cultures of the East and West first intersected.

# Silk Road Map. Reclining Buddha, Mogao Caves, Dunhuang, China





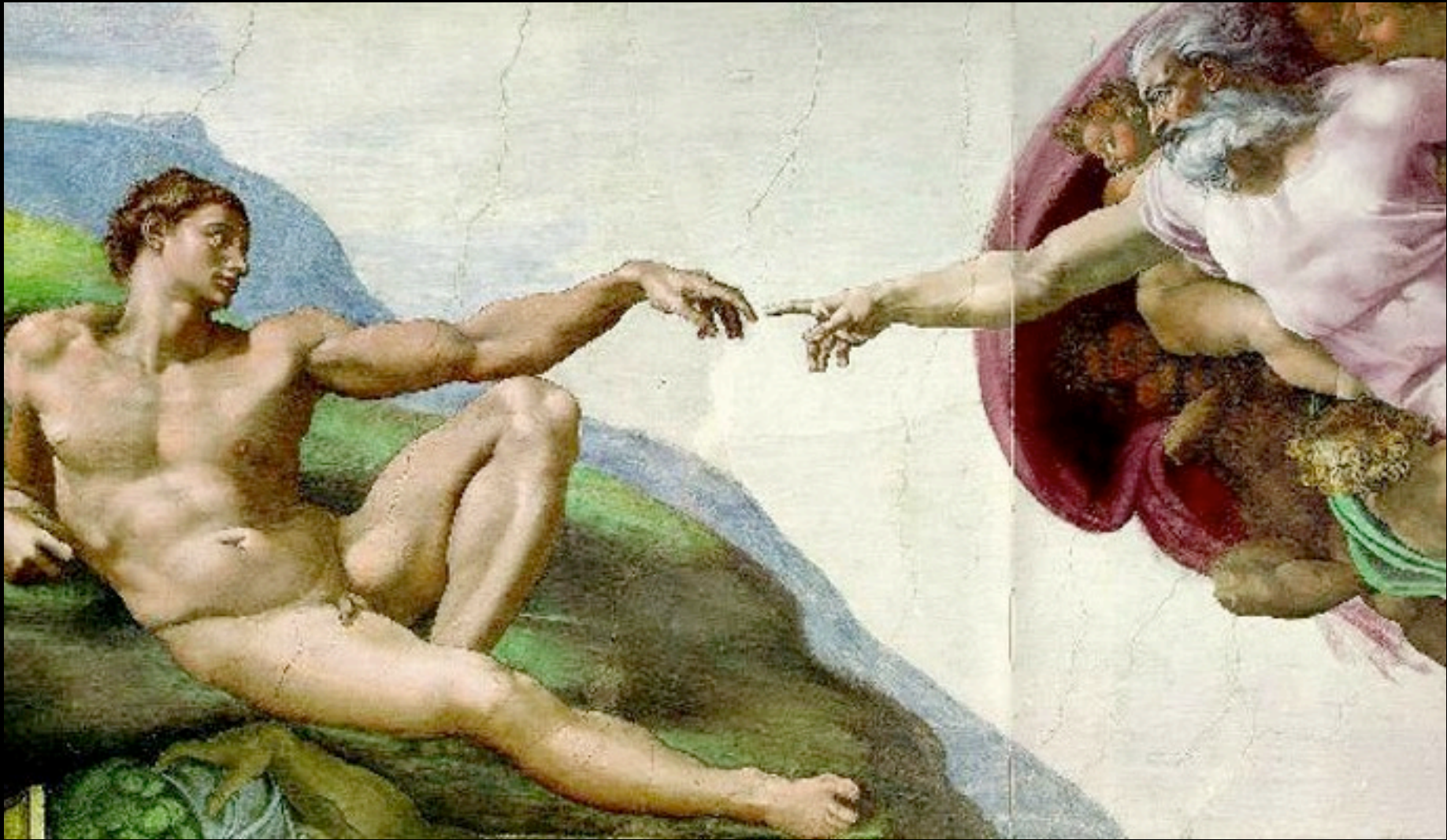
**Jan van Eyck, The Ghent Altarpiece, 1432, 15' x 11'**

Click on  
image for  
video



Jan van Eyck, *Giovanni and His Wife*, 1434

Click on  
image for  
video



Michelangelo Buonarroti, Sistine Chapel detail

Click on  
image for  
video



## Islamic patterns and calligraphy

Click on  
image for  
video





Click on  
image for  
video

**Old Mick Tjakamrra, *Honey Art Dreaming*, Australia 1982**



**Africa Dancing Mask, Lake Tanganyika**

Click on  
image for  
video



Cave painting, Lascaux, France, 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.

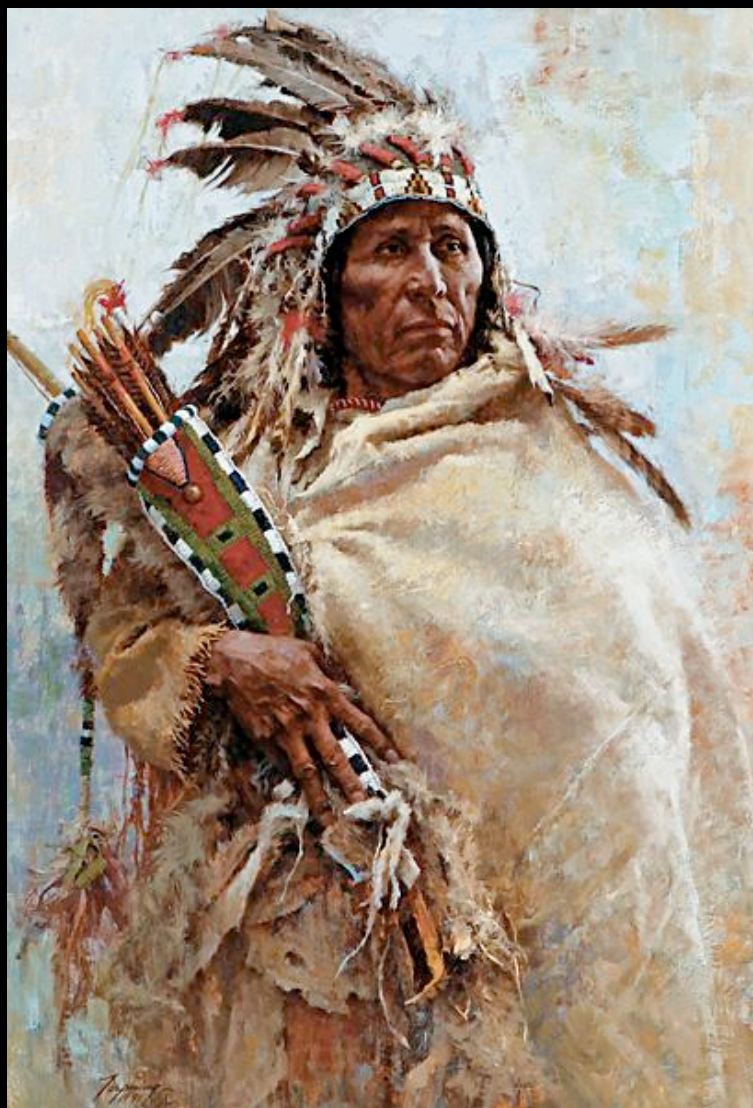
## Prehistoric cave art

Click on  
image for  
video



[Click on image for more information](#)

**Archie Blackowl, Southern Cheyenne, *Peyote Ceremony*,  
Oklahoma 1962 collection of Steven Cost**



Howard Terpning, *Leader of Menby*, oil 1977



Click on  
image for  
video

T. C. Cannon, Gracemont, Okla., *Mother Gestating Me While Walking Along the Washita River*, 1968



Click on  
image for  
video

**La Calavera Catrina** ('The Elegant Skull)  
by Mexican artist and printmaker José Guadalupe Posada,  
1852-1913. The woman is often accompanied by a man in a  
top hat or a Mexican Revolutionary man.

## REVIEW

Just as dark descended on New York City at 5 pm each night between January 16 and February 12, 2007, five 12-minute 57-second films were played on a loop for five hours, until 10 pm, in different combinations across eight different external walls of the Museum of Modern Art.

What is the title of this art installation?



## REVIEW

What medium did Cai Guo-Qiang use to create *Footprints of History*, that was used for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games?

# REVIEW

Physically, visual processing can be divided into three steps. They are:

reception → extraction → inference

# REVIEW

All people are or can be creative, but not all people possess the energy, ingenuity, and courage of conviction that are required to make art.

## REVIEW

While differing from culture to culture and from time to time, the term, “aesthetic,” refers to our sense of the beautiful.

# REVIEW

Generally, we refer to works of art as either representational or abstract.

## REVIEW

Old Mick Tjakamarra, made a painting *that* depicts the landscape of Papunya Tula, Australia. What is the title of the painting?

# REVIEW

What art term is used to define what a work of art expresses or means (or suggests to the viewer's imagination)?

## REVIEW

What is the term used when cultural conventions are often carried forward from one generation to the next by means of a system of visual images the meaning of which is widely understood by a given culture?



# REVIEW

What do we call art that is so realistic that it creates an illusion that “fools the eye”?

# REVIEW

What do we call art and artists who are considered historically ahead of their time?