

Art Styles Dictionary

ABSTRACT - In abstract art, the artist uses a visual language of shapes, forms, lines and colors to interpret a subject-matter, without necessarily providing the viewer with a recognizable visual reference point.

AESTHETIC ART - This style evolved as an art style, (not to be confused with the earlier philosophical and poetic movement of the same name that flourished during the earlier mid 19th C.) from the Arts and Crafts Style in England. It bridged the gap between that style's handcrafted arts, and the heavily flowing lines and curves of the very commercial Art Nouveau movement, which placed no societal or artistic value on handmade items, instead celebrating fluid lines, color, and an otherworldly beauty— at times to the extreme.

ART DECO - Art Deco began in Europe, particularly Paris in the early years of the 20th century, but didn't really take hold until after World War I. It was popular both in Europe and the US until the outbreak of World War II. Its style was influenced by the changing times, with the increase in travel it took inspiration from both the places people were travelling too e.g. Egypt and Africa as well as the transport, planes, cruise liners and cars. Despite using lots of industrial images and geometric lines Art Deco also oozes a sense of glamour. Art Deco takes its name from The International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts held in Paris in 1925. The Art Deco look was spread through all forms of art and design. It was influenced by and influenced modern architecture, in particular the Bauhaus and architects such as Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe.

ARTS and CRAFTS - The arts- and-crafts movement was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution's reliance on mass production and the Victorian era's focus on heavy ornamentation. Popular during the early 1900s, this style glorified craftsmanship in simple shapes with exposed joinery, spare ornamentation and strong lines. Materials used to embellish the look include metals, stained glass and painted tiles and fabrics featuring stylized floral motifs. Notable artisans of this period are William Morris, Gustav Stickley and Charles and Henry Greene.

ART NOUVEAU - Art Nouveau is characterized by an elaborate ornamental style with sinuous linearity and flowing organic shapes based on plant forms. It can be seen most effectively in the decorative arts, for example interior design, glasswork and jewelry. However, it was also seen in posters and illustrations as well as certain paintings and sculptures of the period. The movement took its name from La Maison de l'Art Nouveau in Paris, a shop keen to promote modern ideas in art. It was influenced by the Symbolists most obviously in their shared preference for exotic detail, as well as by Celtic and Japanese art. It was brought to a wider

audience in 1900 with the Exposition Universelle in Paris. Art Nouveau was highly successful all around the world, until it was killed off by the First World War.

BRUTALISM - A style of architecture or art characterized by a deliberate plainness, crudity or violence of imagery. The term was first applied to functionalist buildings of the 1950s and 1960s. that made much use of steel and concrete in starkly massive blocks.

CELTIC - Celtic art and culture dates back to the 8th century B.C. Until recently, much was unknown about this fascinating culture. But thanks to recent archaeological excavation and findings, a greater understanding of the Celtic people has been developed. Tribes were bound together by speech, customs, and religion, rather than a centralized government. Because of this, the art of the culture contained specific designs for spiritual meaning.

Celtic Knotwork is probably the best-known style of Celtic design. The intertwined patterns of never-ending lines appealed to the Celts, symbolizing their ideas of eternal life and the intricate relationship of humanity with both the divine and the natural worlds.

Celtic people are descended from England and W. Europe- Brittany, Cornwall, Galicia, Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland and Wales. The Celts did not live as a single organized nation and are difficult to pin down to one specific way of life. The Celts were not people for writing things down. They passed down their traditions and their history by word of mouth and later in their artwork and symbolism.

Celtic symbolism explains how they felt about the universe, life, death and the result of the changing seasons, so important to people who lived off the land.

IMPRESSIONISM - Impressionist art is a style in which the artist captures the image of an object as someone would see if they just caught a glimpse of it. The artists like to capture their images without detail with color, light and shadow. Some of the greatest impressionist artists were Edouard Manet, Camille Pissaro, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, and Pierre Auguste Renoir.

OP ART - Op Art is a movement from the 1960s which used precise geometrical patterns painted in vivid colors or black-and-white to create optical illusions of movement and fool the viewer's sense of perspective.

POINTILLISM - Pointillism is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of pure color are applied in patterns to form an image. Georges Seurat and Paul Signac developed the technique in 1886, branching from Impressionism. The term "Pointillism" was first coined by art critics in the late 1880s to ridicule the works of these artists and is now used with admiration. The technique is also known as Divisionism. The movement Seurat began lasted less than a decade.

POP ART - Pop Art stands for popular culture as art. It was the visual art movement that characterized a sense of optimism during the post war consumer boom of the 1950's and 1960's. It coincided with the globalization of pop music and youth culture, personified by Elvis and the Beatles. Pop Art was brash, young and fun and hostile to the artistic establishment. It included different styles of painting and sculpture from various countries, but what they all had in common was an interest in mass media, mass-production and mass-culture.

PSYCHEDELIC ART - Psychedelic Art refers to the art movement of the late 1960s counterculture. Psychedelic visual arts were a counterpart to psychedelic rock music. Concert posters, album covers, lightshows, murals, comic books, underground newspapers and more reflected not only the kaleidoscopically swirling patterns of LSD hallucinations, but also revolutionary political, social and spiritual sentiments inspired by insights derived from these psychedelic states of consciousness. Features and motifs common to these pictures are: 1. fantastical, metaphysical and surrealistic subject matter. 2 Kaleidoscopic, fractal or paisley patterns. 3. Bright and/or highly contrasting colors. 4. Extreme depth of detail or stylization of detail. This trait is known as "Horror Vacui" style, or "fear of empty space."

STEAMPUNK - Steampunk, is defined as "a genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advance technology." Most of the time, you can see this definition of Steampunk represented in a story set in a historical time period that features anachronistic and impossible machines. Steampunk as an art style originated in the 1980's and 90's, but its roots can be traced back to a century before. Two of science fiction's most famous authors (and founding fathers) both featured Steampunk-like machines in their seminal works. H.G. Wells' The Time Machine and Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas, featured a time machine and a submarine, respectively, that are anachronistic machines set in a (now) historical time period, the Victorian Era. Today, we might consider those novels a part of the Steampunk genre and culture. In fact, they are classic examples of the Steampunk definition.

SURREALISM - Surrealism was an artistic and literary movement, dedicated to expressing the imagination as revealed in dreams, free of the conscious control of reason and convention. Surrealism inherited an anti-rationalist sensibility from Dada and shaped emerging theories on our perception of reality, especially Sigmund Freud's model of the subconscious.

NOTES

2014 Fall Show Buckeye State Button Society

Hosted by The Cleveland Button Society