

ARTISTIC STYLES

Style

The search for truth is not exclusive to representational art. From viewing many of the examples so far you can see how individual artists use different styles to communicate their ideas. Style refers to a particular kind of appearance in works of art. It's a characteristic of an individual artist or a collective relationship based on an idea, culture or artistic movement. Following is a list and description of the most common styles in art:

Naturalistic Style

Naturalistic style uses recognizable images with a high level of accuracy in their depiction. Naturalism also includes the idealized object: one that is modified to achieve a kind of perfection within the bounds of aesthetics and form. William Sydney Mount's painting *The Bone Player* gives accuracy in its representation and a sense of character to the figure, from his ragged-edged hat to the button missing from his vest. Mount treats the musician's portrait with a sensitive hand, more idealized by his handsome features and soft smile. Note: click the image for a larger view.

Abstract Style

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Abstract Art



Abstract style is based on a recognizable object but which is then manipulated by distortion, scale issues or other artistic devices. Abstraction can be created by exaggerating form, simplifying shapes or the use of strong colors. Abstract art was created at the cusp of the 20th century. It refers to art unconcerned with the literal depiction of things from the visible world. Artwork that reshapes the natural world for expressive purposes is called abstract. In the 20th century the trend toward abstraction coincided with advances in science, technology, and changes in urban life, eventually reflecting an interest in psychoanalytic theory. Later still, abstraction was

manifest in more purely formal terms, such as color, freedom from objective context, and a reduction of form to basic geometric designs and shapes.

This style breaks away from drawing art as it is represented in real life. Abstract art is about exploring form and color. One could even venture to say that it is artists drawing how they feel. Abstractism is not about making perfect copies of real life. Representational would mean that you draw what you see. Abstract art is far from that concept. **Abstract art, non-figurative art, non-objective art, and non-representational art** are loosely related terms.

Abstraction indicates a departure from reality in depiction of [imagery](#) in art. This departure from accurate representation can be slight, partial, or complete.

Artwork which takes liberties, altering for instance color and form in ways that are conspicuous, can be said to be partially abstract. Total abstraction bears no trace of any reference to anything recognizable. In [geometric abstraction](#), for instance, one is unlikely to find references to naturalistic entities.

You can also call abstract art nonrepresentational art.

This art uses a visual language of shape, form, color and line to create a composition which may exist with a degree of independence from visual references in the world. By the end of

the 19th century many artists felt a need to create a new kind of art which would encompass the fundamental changes taking place in technology, science and philosophy.

Much of the art of earlier cultures – signs and marks on pottery, textiles, and inscriptions and paintings on rock – used simple, geometric and linear forms which might have had a symbolic or decorative purpose. It is at this level of visual meaning that abstract art communicates. One can enjoy the beauty of Chinese calligraphy or Islamic calligraphy without being able to read it.

Abstraction emphasise an artwork's formal qualities over its representational subject matter. Abstract artists experimented with new techniques such as using vivid yet arbitrary colors, reconstructing shapes, and rejecting realistic three-dimensional perspective.

The Highlights

Abstraction can be traced to Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Cubism. All three helped realize the idea that art could be non-representative.

The father.

The first artist to create abstract art as we know it will always remain a mystery but Wassily Kandinsky is often credited by historians as he created paintings of floating,

nonrepresentational forms as early as 1912.

The present.

Abstract art now lives in the art world in many forms. It is two- and three-dimensional. It can be vast or small. Abstract art can also be made with many materials and on many surfaces. Artists creating it often focus on other visual qualities like color, form, texture, scale and more in their nonobjective work.

History and Styles of Abstract Art

Stylistically, abstract art included the movements of Surrealism, Dadaism, Cubism, and Fauvism. Included in the collection of famous artists favoring the abstract are Pablo Picasso, Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, and many more.

The roots of abstract painting, though, can be found with Post-Impressionism. Post-Impressionism was an art movement developed in France just before the turn of the 20th century. In these early days, you might be able to make out a picture of a person, but up close it might have been constructed of planes and angles. For example, Georges Seurat created abstract art with a technique called pointillism. Pointillism is using dots to create people and places.

Wassily Kandinsky, of Russian descent, was one of the pioneers of abstract art using form and color in his paintings.

Vincent van Gogh, another French artist, is an example of Post-Impressionism. He focused more on color and light in his works, giving the impression of light dancing on the fields and meadows he drew.

Pablo Picasso, a famous Spanish artist from the 20th Century, started his career painting representational pieces. In around 1910, he developed Cubism, which is the drawing of planes and angles that vaguely looked like the people he was drawing, but looked more like geometry.

Man Ray was one of the famous Surrealist artists. Surrealism was a movement that included visual arts and writing that developed in the 1920s. It was dedicated to expressing the imagination as revealed in dreams, free of the conscious control of reason and convention

Abstract Expressionism developed in the United States after World War II. Abstract art came over from Europe as people fled from war-torn areas and came to America.