

Creativity in the Arts

Greek Artistic Creativity

- Art is imitation
 - Of an eternal ideal (Plato)
 - Must follow eternal unchanging ideals
 - Should be purposeful and methodical (Aristotle)
 - Greater imitation = greater value
- Art is a skill
 - Taught and improved with practice

Medieval Artistic Creativity

- Function enhanced by art and beauty
- Legitimacy of creativity
 - Correspondence with Christian faith
- Purpose of art
 - Imitating and revealing the sacred
- Mastery and inspiration important
 - Novel interpretations to be avoided

Recognition of Artists

- Lack of recognition
 1. Point was to show divine majesty
 2. Works were collaborative
 3. Creators were craftsmen
- Art is still considered a skill
 - Imitation important

Renaissance (recap)

- Return to classical (Grecian) models
- Increase value of artists and their work
- Art = imitation of divine idea
BUT
 - Capable of **improving** and **transforming** reality
 - Capable of **bringing something new** into being

Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)

- Art, thought, inventiveness
 - Derived from observation and depiction of nature
- Experience = “Knowing how to see”
 - Step 1: Imitate outward form
 - Step 2: Express “spirit” of subject
- “Discovery” becomes more important than imitation

Art, Technology, Craft

- Prior to Renaissance
 - Art, technology, craft were all the same thing
- During Renaissance
 - Art seen as different from technology and craft
 - Painting, sculpture, poetry = “Art”
 - Artistic creations seen as more valuable than craft

Artist-Entrepreneur

- Albrecht Durer (1471 – 1528)
- Work produced and marketed to public
- Ruthless self-promoter
- Believed great wealth belonged to great artists

Creative Rebellion

- Dissatisfaction with old ways of doing things
 - Sparks rebellion
 - Leads to creative advancements
- Examples
 - Enlightenment => Romanticism
 - Classicism=> Impressionism
 - Minimalism => Steampunk

Enlightenment and Romanticism

- Enlightenment
 - Creation is methodical, purposeful, **logical**
 - Inspiration creates the idea
 - **Structured process** for making idea a reality
- Romanticism
 - Backlash to Enlightenment values
 - Creation involves outpouring of **emotional** energy
 - **Beyond conscious control** of creator
 - Goal is creative **expression**

Creativity, Rebellion and Destruction

- Creativity associated with destruction
 - Total break with the past
- Rebellion
 - Novel actively replaces traditional
 - Typifies great advances in arts and sciences



Classicism => Impressionism

- Classicism
 - Literature, art, architecture, music
 - Ancient Greek and Roman sources
 - Embraced by Enlightenment philosophy
 - Formal and restrained
 - Use of geometry and grids
 - Rigorous discipline & pedagogy
 - Schools of art and music

Classicism => Impressionism

- Impressionism
- Rebellion against classicism
 - New approach to painting
 - Painting outdoors
 - Focus on catching impression of the moment
 - Use of light and strong colors

Classicism => Impressionism

- Ridiculed by public
- Condemned by art critics
- 20 years before style was recognized and appreciated

Minimalism=> Steampunk

- Minimalism
 - “Apple Aesthetic”
 - Design in which subject reduced to necessary elements/essential quality
 - Ideas expressed as lines and planes
 - Organized in a specific manner
 - Parts and details reduced
 - Nothing can be removed to further improve design
 - “Less but better”

Minimalism=> Steampunk

- NPR: “[Steampunk Brings Victorian Flair to the 21st Century](#)”
- **Modern-day technologies + Victorian-era aesthetics**
- Examples
 - Literature
 - Movies
 - Technology mods
 - Art
 - Decor
 - Music

Creative Rebellion: Symbolist Movement

- Literary sub-movement of Romanticism
 - Extended power of words
 - Express things beyond everyday awareness
- Themes
 - Inner self
 - Finding beauty the malignant and evil
- Creative rebellion extended to life choices

La Muse malade
 My poor Muse, alas! what ails you today?
 Your hollow eyes are full of nocturnal visions;
 I see in turn reflected on your face
 Horror and madness, cold and taciturn.
 Have the green succubus, the rosy elf,
 Poured out for you love and fear from their urns?
 Has the hand of Nightmare, cruel and despotic,
 Plunged you to the bottom of some weird
 Minturnae?
 I would that your bosom, fragrant with health,
 Were constantly the dwelling place of noble
 thoughts,
 And that your Christian blood would flow in
 rhythmic waves
 Like the measured sounds of ancient verse,
 Over which reign in turn the father of all songs,
 Phoebus, and the great Pan, lord of harvest.

Creative Rebellion and the Creative Rebel

- Rebellion against social norms and the establishment
- Advocated derangement of senses
 - Drink, drugs, and depredation
- Artistic pleasure in shocking their audiences
 - “Cursed poets”
 - Baudelaire, Rimbaud

Characteristics of the Creative Rebel

- Goal is the search for novelty
- Ignore society, tradition, morality, or consequences
- Creativity expression of will
 - Strengthened by resistance
 - “Every artist is a criminal”



Whoever battles with monsters had better see that it does not turn him into a monster. And if you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.

Creativity, Rebellion, and Madness

- Creative rebellion rooted in destruction
 - Destroying artistic norms
 - Destroying social norms
- Creativity rooted in madness
 - Purposely altered perceptions
 - Rebellion despite consequences

Creative Rebellion: Psychodynamic Approach

- Ego transforms threatening id impulses
 - Creativity is a defense mechanism
 - Origin in unconscious
 - Symbolic satisfaction of sexual and destructive impulses
- Creativity is rooted in pathology

Creativity, Rebellion, and Madness

- “Creative rebels” and “romantic rebellion” rooted in insanity
 - Mad scientist
 - Tortured artist

Examples of Creative Rebels

- Arthur Rimbaud (poet)
- Hunter S. Thompson (journalist)
- Richard Feynman (physicist)
- Timothy Leary (psychologist)

Creative Rebel: Arthur Rimbaud (1854 – 1891)

- Precocious boy-poet of French symbolism – “Cursed Poet”



Vowels

A Black, E white, I red, U green, O blue : vowels,
I shall tell, one day, of your mysterious origins:
A, black velvety jacket of brilliant flies
Which buzz around cruel smells,

Gulfs of shadow; E, whiteness of vapours and of tents,
Lances of proud glaciers, white kings, shivers of cow-
parsley;
I, purples, spat blood, smile of beautiful lips
In anger or in the raptures of penitence;

U, waves, divine shudderings of viridian seas,
The peace of pastures dotted with animals, the peace of
the furrows
Which alchemy prints on broad studious foreheads;

O, sublime Trumpet full of strange piercing sounds,
Silences crossed by Worlds and by Angels:
O the Omega, the violet ray of Her Eyes!

Consequences of Creative Rebellion

- Positive
 - Wealth, power, fame, opportunity
- Negative
 - Poverty, censure, imprisonment, exile, death


