

Milestone 3 Art Learn Its

Cycle A Autumn – Capturing Conflict

Conflict and war have inspired artists across cultures and periods of history. Artists have created images of war for different purposes: some to depict heroes, others to highlight the tragedy of conflict.

John Singleton Copley's painting *The Death of the Major Peirson* celebrates British defence of Jersey against French invasion. The focus on a hero dying is typical of the genre at this time. The picture is full of colour and movement, with Peirson's white body emphasised against the vivid red of the soldiers' jackets.

The harsh reality of war captured through art creates strong emotions for the viewer. Some artists, such as Charles Bell, focused on the injured and wounded. He emphasised the gestures and facial expressions to reveal the physical suffering and create sympathy.

Before the 20th century, war artists often depicted heroic tales inspired by the actions of armies led by famous generals and captains. More recently, during the two world wars, artists have depicted the ordinary soldier, their families and the impact of conflict.

Official war artists were asked by the British Government to document activities and events during the two world wars. Artists like Wyndham Lewis, Paul Nash, Stanley Spencer, Henry Moore and John Piper were all notable war artists whose images illustrate the impact of war both overseas and on the home front.

Vocabulary

Glorified	Deeds
Documenting	Official
Union Jack	Home Front
Harsh	

Cycle A Spring – Futurism

Futurism was an Italian art movement of the early 20th century. The aim of Futurist artists was to capture in art the dynamism and energy of the modern world. They wanted to celebrate industry and technology and were strong in their denunciation of part art culture. Futurist artists often used elements of Cubism and Impressionism to create artwork expressing features of modern life. The popularity of Futurism was significantly linked to the emotional aspect of the art style. The focus of celebrating aspects of modern life such as travel, speed and technology, and turning away from the past created feelings of excitement, hope and power.

In order to achieve dynamism and movement in their art, Futurists developed techniques to express speed and motion. Two key techniques involved blurring and repetition in combination with the use of threadlike brushstrokes. Divisionism was also popular and involved breaking down light and colour into a series of dots and stripes and breaking the picture into segments.

The most famous artists came from Italy and were Umberto Boccioni, Giacomo Balla, Carlo Carrá and Luigi Russolo.

The painting *Street Light* by Giacomo Balla is a significant Futurist painting as the modern electric light contrasts the gentle light of the moon.

Vocabulary

Denunciation	
Innovative	Divisionism
Reassuring	Stippled
Phenomenon	Segments
Threadlike	Nationalistic

Cycle A Summer – Expressionism

Expressionism in art relates to how real images are distorted and exaggerated in order to express the inner feelings or ideas of the artist. The art is often emotional and even mystical, with frequent use of shocking and vibrant colours.

Fauvism – This is a form of Expressionism and is a name applied to the work characterised by strong colours and aggressive use of brushstrokes that was produced by artists in the early 1900s. Artists such as Henry Matisse and André Derain often used bold non-natural and complementary colours with wild, loose dabs of paint making their work seem quite abstract.

In the early 20th century four German art students created a communal group called Die Brücke (The Bridge). They wanted to serve as a 'bridge' to the future of art by using unnatural forms and colours inspired by the modern world.

Sculpture – Expressionist techniques used for sculpture are particularly focused on exaggeration. Rather than sculpting the full physical form of the subject, sculptors emphasise prominent features by distorting or elongating them, making the sculpture less realistic. The sculptor does this to reflect the emotional and mental state.

Vocabulary

Mystical	Intellect
Fauvism	Communal
Determined	Prominent
Instinct	Elongating

Cycle A Spring – Surrealism

Surrealism began with people in the 1920s who believed that the way to find out the truth in the world was through the subconscious mind and dreams, rather than through thinking logically. The first known Surrealist was a poet from France called André Breton who wrote *The Surrealist Manifesto* in 1924. Surrealist artists explored the subconscious areas of the mind where they believed they could steer behaviour and motion. This often meant that their art made little sense.

Famous Artists – Paul Klee (1879-1940) German painter and sculptor, Max Ernst (1891-1976) German painter and sculptor, Joan Miró (1893-1983) Spanish painter and sculptor, René Magritte (1898-1967) Belgian painter, Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) French sculptor, Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) Spanish painter.

The painting 'Around the Fish' was painted in 1926 by Paul Klee. It is a typical example of Surrealism as it seems random and difficult to explain.

Some Surrealist artists used automatism to help provide the effect of chance or the release of a stream of subconscious thoughts from the mind. André Masson used a sticky substance called gesso which he let fall onto a canvas and then threw sand over it. He then doodled and painted around the grains. The use of colour was important – some Surrealists use dull colours in the background and bright colours for their main objects for more emphasis.

Vocabulary

Persistence	Distorted
Civil War	Horizon
Irrelevant	
Unconscious	