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Due Jan 21 11:59pm

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Discussion 1

After you have finished this weeks readings **The Fin de Siecle: Toward the Modern** (Sayre, pp. 1111-1141) answer the questions below in your own words:

1. Describe the fin de siècle sensibility and how Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reflect it. Choose an artist from each movement (Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism), upload a painting from each work and describe in great detail. How does Symbolism differ from Realism? In what way are dance and music quintessential Symbolist media?
2. Differentiate among the innovations that the Post-Impressionist artist brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post Impressionism.
3. Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's The Scream reveal about the modern world?
4. What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the theory to his novella Heart of Darkness?
5. Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist.

***If you research information from another source other than your textbook, you must cite that source but still use your own words. If you use information from a source and do not cite it- it is plagiarism. Please keep this in mind for all future discussion posts. I do check to make sure that you are not copying and pasting from the Internet. If you are unsure how to cite a source from the Internet utilize this link: <https://>**

owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/

Important. Do not post discussions as an attachment.

After you post your discussion, leave a comment for 3 other students about their post. Do not simply say, "I agree with you" or "Good job" Ask questions and foster a productive dialogue.

I am here to help. If you have any questions, email me at kcairns@valencia.college.edu

Reply



Lia Varona Garcia (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/516006>)



Jan 21 7:49pm | Last edited Jan 21 7:53pm

1- Describe the fin de siècle sensibility and how Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reflect it. Choose an artist from each movement (Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism), upload a painting from each work and describe in great detail. How does Symbolism differ from Realism? In what way are dance and music quintessential Symbolist media?

-- El Fin de Siècle sensibility, prevalent in the late 19th century, encapsulated a cultural atmosphere marked by sophistication, escapism, extreme aestheticism, world-weariness, and a fashionable sense of despair (Encyclopedia Britannica).

Art Nouveau:

-- <https://www.messynessychic.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/0c944c75c611034b2beb83546df13215.jpg>

--- "Regardless of the role Sarah played in her productions, Mucha made sure to highlight her beauty and grace. Mucha also designed jewelry for Sarah to wear during her productions. His most iconic pieces for her were the opal snake bracelet shown on the Medea poster and the lily tiara seen on the Princess Lointaine Poster (Messy Nessy Chich)." This artwork evidence the early steps into the Art Nouveau.

Realism:

-- <https://i0.wp.com/www.identifythisart.com/gallery/french-realism-art/the-gleaners-by-jean-francois-millet.jpg>

--- "Realist paintings depict the harsh, everyday reality of ordinary people from the middle and lower classes of society, for example, *The Gleaners* by Jean-François Millet (Identify This Art)." When I saw this artwork, it remained me to the time of slavery and the difference in social classes.

Symbolism:

-- <https://www.thelantern.com/files/2020/11/Image-20.jpeg>

--- "Symbolism was a late 19th-century art movement of French and Belgian origin in poetry and other arts seeking to represent absolute truths symbolically through language and metaphorical images, mainly as a reaction against naturalism and realism (Wikipedia)."

-- Realism seeks to depict themes truthfully, focusing on everyday life and social issues without idealizing them, while Symbolism prioritizes the representation of ideas and emotions, often using metaphorical and abstract images to explore the human psyche.

-- Dance and music are considered quintessential symbolist mediums because they transcend literal representation and allow for the expression of complex emotions and ideas through movement and sound. These art forms can evoke moods and atmospheres that align with the symbolist desire to delve into the subconscious and the spiritual.

2- Differentiate among the innovations that the Post-Impressionist artist brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post Impressionism.

--- Post-Impressionist artists expanded on Impressionism by exploring new techniques and emphasizing personal expression. They often used vivid colors, thick layers of paint (impasto), and real-life subject matter, but they deviated from the style by incorporating geometric shapes, distorting forms for expressive effect, and using unnatural or arbitrary colors (Artland Magazine).

--- Vincent van Gogh made important contributions in terms of color and paint application. He used bold, often non-naturalistic colors to convey emotion and used dynamic, expressive brushstrokes to add a sense of movement and intensity to his works. His painting "The Starry Night" (1889) exemplifies these techniques.

--- In "The Starry Night," van Gogh uses swirling blues and vibrant yellows to depict the night sky, conveying a sense of turbulence and emotional intensity. The thick application of paste paint adds texture and depth, enhancing the expressive quality of the scene.

3- Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's *The Scream* reveal about the modern world?

-- Symbolism influenced a number of artists and movements beyond France, fostering a focus on personal expression and the exploration of psychological and mystical themes. Edvard Munch, a Norwegian artist, was deeply influenced by Symbolist ideas, as seen in his work "The Scream," which delves into themes of existential angst and human emotion. This focus on internal experiences paved the way for Expressionism and other modern art movements that prioritize subjective interpretation over realistic depiction.

-- Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy, particularly his exploration of existentialism and the human condition, resonates with the themes depicted in Munch's "The Scream." Both address feelings of anxiety and disorientation in the face of a rapidly changing modern world. Munch's depiction of a figure overwhelmed by an existential crisis mirrors Nietzsche's contemplation of nihilism and the search for meaning in an indifferent universe (Artsy).

4- What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the theory to his novella *Heart of Darkness*?

-- Social Darwinism is a misapplication of Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection, which suggests that human societies and races are subject to the same laws of natural selection, leading to the belief that certain groups are superior to others. This ideology was used to justify imperialism, colonialism, and social inequalities.







-- In "Heart of Darkness," Joseph Conrad critiques the brutal realities of imperialism and the dehumanizing effects of Social Darwinist thought. Through the character of Kurtz and his descent into madness, Conrad exposes the moral corruption and hypocrisy underlying colonial enterprises, questioning the notion of European superiority and the justification of exploitation under the guise of "civilizing" missions (JSTOR).

5- Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist.

-- One artist of interest from this period is Vincent van Gogh. His work is historically significant due to his innovative use of color, expressive brushwork, and emotional depth, which have had a lasting impact on

modern art. A significant piece that reflects his artistic identity is "The Starry Night." This painting exemplifies his ability to convey profound emotion and movement through vivid colors and dynamic composition. Exploring van Gogh's work offers insight into the development of expressionism and the emphasis on personal perspective in art.

Works Cited

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Karen Salcedo (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/457922>)



Jan 21 6:33pm

The fin de siècle sensibility described by Max Nordau, is characterized by a passion for traditional values, longing for change, and a sense of cultural standards. Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reject old norms, embrace new forms of expression, and explore both the darker and extreme sides of life that reflect every movement of time. It responds in unique ways to existing emotions. But they all have a common reaction to a world in decline. And the desire for new and different things.

Art Nouveau



Painted in 1901: By Gustav Klimt's

Gustav Klimt's oil painting is an example of Art Nouveau. This painting has a Viennese woman who is half-clothed, wearing very detailed gold jewels around her neck, as does her gold-worn clothing. Posing with her head held high, she holds down the head of a man who is below her with her right arm. Above the top of the painting, it reads "Judith and Holofernes," which focuses on the back story of this piece of art. This painting overall uses dark shades of color along with bright gold, which makes this painting stand out.

Realism



Painted in 2014: By Alain Pontecorvo

Alian Pontecorvo's oil-painted canvas is an example of realism, not bringing any type of emotion. Instead, it's what you expect the painting to be. El citron et son reflet is French and means "The lemon and its reflection." This painting focuses on light and color: a yellow lemon lying flat on a black, shiny plate that highlights the reflection of the fruit.

Symbolism



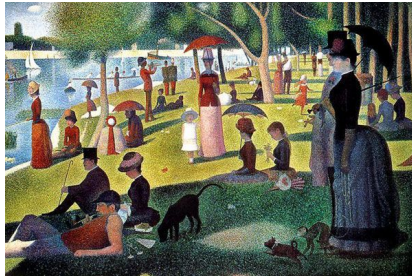
Painted in 1893: By Edvard Munch

Edvard Munch's cardboard painting brings out a dark side, portraying a skull head holding down its face close to its ears. The emotion or feeling represented by the facial expression is one of shock, as we see the mouth is wide open. This is why the background story of the painting is called "The Scream." We can also see two figures in the back distancing away from this scene. Munch uses a painting style that focuses on different shades and tones of color along with contrasted movement of lines, as he incorporates tempera and crayon wax.

Symbolism is far from the physical world. Instead, its focus is to "objectify the subjective." Reflecting more on emotions and using them through abstraction. On the other hand, realism represents what is accurate and direct, what we call reality. It focuses on the real world. An example was the famous sculpture of Rodin, *The Kiss* (pg.7), portraying two undressed bodies. It's a clear example of realism.

Dance and music are quintessential Symbolist media because symbolism reflects emotion and abstract ideas. That is what helps artists in the movement of dance and sound of music to think out of the box and allows them to express what we call subjective, which creates symbolism.

The innovations that the Post Impressionist artists like Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Georges Seurat, and Vincent Van Gogh were the painters that brought impressionist methods through their paintings. One of the most talented was Seurat. Seurat received his methods of painting from other artists and contributed them to his piece of art by using primary and secondary colors. The combination and use of these mixtures of colors helped him realize what was useful. He encountered adversity at times that's just like any other artist would. This is what made him an artist and made a huge impact on his paintings. He was who developed the pointillism technique, which is tiny dots of colors that created creativity in his paintings.



(This painting is an example of Post Impressionism painted by George Seurat)

Van Gogh's life was fully connected by art. He contributed his terms of color with feelings, which made his art unique. Contrasting colors, pointillism technique, and color combinations from Seurat helped him to create a specific texture in his drawings. Along with contributing dashes and strokes when painting, there is a method known as impasto that he also involves in his canvases. Overall, the movements and rhyme he moved with his brush express how he was feeling at that exact moment when doing his artwork.

The Symbolist movement was impacted by Nietzsche's philosophy and Edvard Munch's *The Scream*. Modern art outside of France helped artists and writers adapt to the style of symbolism, focused on emotion and thoughts, as seen in Munch's artwork. On the other hand, Nietzsche's philosophy expressed a deeper level of subjective emotion, focusing on the individual.

Social Darwinism is a theory that applies to Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection and how it blends into society such as race and dominance. Colonies like Africa and Asia were validated through imperialism. During the 19th century, other races were not acknowledged because they weren't in the same category. Portraying Europeans as a "better" race than the other.

Joseph Conrad reacts to the theory in his novella *Heart of Darkness* by showing negativity. He criticized imperialism by delivering the opposite side of social Darwinism. He would question what they justify displaying the outcome of the Europeans.

An artist I would like to explore more in depth is Edvard Munch. The historical significance of his work is transmitted from emotions, using colors to express how he felt at that exact moment. I believe "The Scream" is a piece of artwork that deeply reflects who he is as an artist. It's one of his most well-known paintings. I chose this artist because I feel

I connect to his art. It portrays life through various emotions, such as love, terror, and many others. When I create a painting, I go with how I'm feeling and combine colors to express my emotions. So, in a way, we both use our art for the same focus.



"The Scream" by Edvard Munch

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Neil Elkadi (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/301023>)



Jan 21 6:22pm

The fin de Siecle - literally translating to the end of an era - represents a time in which culture moved on from old ideas and into new. To reflect this, noticeable changes occurred in the art world with the rise of Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism. For instance, Art Nouveau is a re-exploration of artistic ideas that saw more curves and asymmetry than previous works. Realism decided not to be idealistic with its art and to represent situations as they truly would be in life, awkwardness and all. And symbolism saw a complete disconnection from reality to pursue more spiritual ideas all together.

Art Nouveau

Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I by Klimt



The art depicts a woman having been covered with gold, silver, and other such rare minerals. The subject is then made to be part of the background as though the amount of glamor she holds is endless. This displays the deep sense of wealth and beauty in the subject.

Realism

The Gross Clinic - Thomas Eakins



The clinic portrays a grizzly scene of a clinical procedure in the 19th century. Little is held back or glorified in the artwork as it displays a

procedure with many doctors both stressed and focused as well as disinterested and accustomed to their work. The procedure is done in the presence of an audience taking notes, further illustrating the crudeness of human medicine.

Realism

Starry Night - Vincent Van Gogh



Starry Night, as its name states, is a depiction of a starry night. However, the stars are bright. Very bright. The intended symbolism being that of the souls of the travelers who leave the realm of life and visit the after life among the stars.

In terms of differences, symbolism and realism tend to be polar opposites. Symbolism tries to represent abstract concepts through art whereas realism tries to represent itself in a manner likely to be seen one-to-one in life. Dance and music in particular carries a great medium for symbolist media as movement and sound can easily be used to reflect more abstract ideas than as with images.

Post impressionist art tries to capture more than just the pure natural

colors and lighting and instead uses its resources to highlight the feelings and emotional depth behind scenes. Vincent Van Gogh in particular is a leading figure in that act. This can be seen in his work *Starry Night* where the star's unnatural brightness reflects the souls that travel to the stars upon death.

Symbolism saw its growth beyond France with its adaptation of new ideas in art. Not only will items be depicted, but also the feeling they give and how it impacts its surroundings. The same can be said for many mediums of art.

Nietzsche's teachings represented a movement away from cultural conformity and an embrace of personal desire in a healthy manner. Edvard Munch's *The Scream* in particular displays a lost soul in a world twisted and confused of anything uniform and sensible. As though to reflect the change in the era at a time when religion was being left behind and culture was rediscovering what it meant to be human.

Social Darwinism is an application of Darwin's theory of evolution to social structure. In particular, it argues that those socially less well-off are so due to an inherent failure in their being and that those who succeed do so as a rightful sign of their fitness.

An artist I believe would be worth further exploration is Edvard Munch. As with many at the time, his art also seemed to be inspired from a dark place. Historically, his activities overlapped with that of Vincent Van Gogh and other artists of the time. Having learned from and with them, he pushed forward the art world with his work: *The Scream*. His work in *The Scream* shows how a troubled childhood leads to a distinct and frightening view of the world.

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Esai Aponte (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/592837>)



Jan 21 6:17pm

1. The fin de siècle is a time period; refers to the last decade of the nineteenth century. It refers to the current events of that time period. It represented a point in time where times were harsher and was prior to an upcoming time of hope. During this era, people started to shift from a strict traditional way of life and adopt new ideas. Some of these ideas were reflected in the form of art. The piece below is titled *Judith I*. As the textbook mentions, this piece is a symbol for the emancipation of women and a clear shift in tradition. The painting displays a biblical woman partially clothed. This breaks the traditional standard of what it means to be well dressed. Additionally, the woman in the painting is a hero in her respective story. This adds to the sense that changes during these new times meant empowerment of women and people are free to be who they want. They're not limited what tradition say they are.



This painting ties well with Henrik Ibsen's play. In his play he had very mature themes and explored man's sexuality. This builds on the idea of breaking tradition by shedding light on difficult or uncomfortable topics.

In the picture below we see the statue titled *The Kiss*. This statue is portraying a man and a woman kissing. Clearly we can see they are embracing each other, which signals their strong connection. The textbook mentions the artist intended to pay tribute to the opposite sex. This is evident in the way the woman is one who engaged and she has her arms wrapped around him. Also, we can see this homage in the way the woman's body language; she's leaning into the kiss and her whole body is

in close proximity to her partner. This painting relates to fin de siècle by again being another break in tradition. This piece clearly displays the hope and joy of the future through a modern perspective on art.



In this next painting is titled *Monument to Balzac*. In this sculpture we can see his exaggerated proportions and facial features. The artist gave a great effort to fully know his reference and he knew every little detail. Despite this, he opted to be completely creative and expressive as can be seen with the final product. Rodin wanted to show an artistic process with his piece.



Symbolism and realism differ in their execution of the idea. Both are creative, aim to express emotion, and aim to express an idea. Realism uses realistic portrayals to show this. They use people and imagery. Symbolism's goal is to indirectly convey emotion or a thought. They use exaggeration and more abstract techniques to accomplish this.

Music is crucial in symbolism because music isn't something tangible. A sculpture or a painting can clearly show something, but music is purely based off of emotion. Music can express many things without something truly there and this is exactly what symbolism is. For example, a major scale can create a joyful tone and a note out of the scale can build tension. Also, the dynamics of a piece can change the intensity of an expressed emotion.

Dance also plays a major role in symbolism. Movements can be used to show the sentiments behind the choreographer. The text brings up a great example of how opposing movements can indicate contrasting ideas. The speed and intensity of movements can convey emotions as well.

2. A major innovation from these painters was their ideas on color theory. They started finding way to capture the brightness and vibrancy of colors in the light. Many of them focused on how to better use colors to make more expressive artworks. A great example is Cezanne's painting; the painting utilized different colors to separate light and shadows. Typically these distinctions in light were painted with different shades of the same color. Van Gogh's use of colors to convey emotion helped reshape art. Additionally, his accentuated use of brush strokes also showed how he felt and the passion of his emotions. This is clear in his painting below titled *Night Cafe*. As we read, the opposing colors add tension to the piece. Also the use of bright colors points out specific things the artist wants us to see. The tables filled with drinks and the lonely man are more indications of Van Gogh's negative feelings of human passions. The clear brush strokes of the lights show their brightness; a overly bright room is unappealing to the eye.



3. Symbolism helped modern art branch out into new trends and ideas. They started experimenting with different techniques that weren't what had always been used. Nietzsche's teachings reveal the downsides of

modernity. One of his biggest ideas was nihilism and how it leads to people finding meaning in self destructive things. Munch's *The Scream* is supposed to show the horrors of the upcoming future.

4. Social Darwinism is the belief that in society there are people are superior and they are the ones that will rise to the top. In his novella, he explores the corruption of humans and the exploitation caused by imperialism. He feels that social darwinism is a concept and ideology that leads to exploitation.

5. One artist that caught my attention was Georges Seurat. He is the artist that created the painting *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte*. His work is significant because he was one of the first artist that used a different technique than the normal in his paintings. His painting *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte* is great example of this technique. His use of multicolored dots was a different approach to shading. It was a good attempt to imitate the way light comes together to form colors. This artist interested me because I recognized his painting. Also, I like how he used the scientific properties of light to find a way to make his paintings more intriguing.

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[Axel Honorez \(https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/524562\)](https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/524562) ⋮

Jan 21 6:09pm | Last reply Jan 21 6:52pm

1. Describe the fin de siècle sensibility and how Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reflect it. Choose an artist from each movement (Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism), upload a painting from each work and describe in great detail. How does Symbolism differ from Realism? In what way are dance and music quintessential Symbolist media? The sensibly of fin de siècle was exactly was it translates to, the end of an era. This was the end of an era for the art of that time and many felt trapped by the end of that era and the coming of a new. This also reflects on Art Nouveau as instead of coming to the end of an era, it was the start of a new era. Realism would also reflect on this with its new way of expressing art by providing something more gritty and real to bring about something new. Symbolism let realism go and instead opted for more fantasy to find a new was of expressing ones self. Realism wanted to show more realistic settings to show what

there every daily lives looked like while Symbolism meant to continue on expressing themselves in ways that were closer to fantasy and a focus on subjective experiences. Dance and music were perfect examples of symbolism as they were used to express the feelings of people and was not limited to what we could see but lets us express ourselves on how we feel.

Gustav Klimt used an Art Nouveau style and drew a painting about the Jewish heroin Judith and what they wanted to show was that behind all the gold and lavish clothing was an "earthly spirit" of Judith.

Victor Horta showed the design for a home ,commissioned by a family, and showed a realistic setting. This lead to the rapid change of how decorations designed and modeled in Europe.

Auguste Rodin used a lot of symbolism and in this painting showed how simply a dancer moves and during this painting he was seeking for a "transition between two movements".

2. Differentiate among the innovations that the Post-Impressionist artist brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post Impressionism. Pointelles was a innovation that used the primary colors and some secondary colors to apply tiny dots onto the canvas. This had different uses like the subtractive method that would mix the primary colors to create black or the additive process that mixed the light primary colors to create white. Van Gogh would be overcome with emotions often and paint and his unique way of painting led to a new art style that was cultivated from his art. I feel the Night Cafe by Van Gogh helps explain what Post Impressionism represents.

3. Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's The Scream reveal about the modern world? many outside of France quickly went on to follow Symbolism as well as adopting the styles of the artist that had Symbolism styles like Van Gogh. The teachings of Nietzsche and Munch revealed that many individuals just followed in the footsteps of others and not think for themselves instead.

4. What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the theory to his novella *Heart of Darkness*? Social Darwinism was the idea that certain races were better than others. It appears that Joseph Conrad was not much of a fan of Social Darwinism as to is writing in *Heart of Darkness*.

5. Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist. Van Gogh was very dedicated to finding "universal harmony" in his art. He is also considered the founder of Neo-Impressionism and had a huge impact on art in France. He is most well known for his painting "The Starry Night" and I believe it is the painting that reflects who he was as an artist. I chose Van Gogh because I think it is very fascinating as to how he used his emotional state as a tool for his art which you really can see in his art.

> **1 Reply, 1 Unread** |  **Reply** |  **Mark as Unread**



Jade Penaranda (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/501981>)



Jan 21 12:43pm

1. The Fin de Siècle Sensibility and Artistic Movements

The fin de siècle sensibility reflected decadence, innovation, and anxiety during Europe's transition to modernity. Art Nouveau, like Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss*, embraced organic forms and decorative aesthetics. Realism, seen in Gustave Courbet's *The Stone Breakers*, depicted everyday struggles. Symbolism, like Odilon Redon's *The Cyclops*, explored imagination and spirituality, diverging from Realism's focus on material life.

2. Dance and Music in Symbolism

Dance and music embody Symbolist ideals by emphasizing emotion and abstraction. Music by Claude Debussy evokes ethereal moods through tonal innovations, while Loie Fuller's performances fused light and movement to create dreamlike experiences. Both art forms transcend narrative, aligning with Symbolism's focus on capturing spiritual and emotional essence over realism or rationality.

3. Post-Impressionist Innovations

Post-Impressionists expanded Impressionism by emphasizing emotion, symbolism, and structure. Van Gogh revolutionized color with bold hues and expressive brushwork, as shown in *Starry Night*. Paul Cézanne introduced geometric forms, while Georges Seurat developed pointillism. These innovations shifted art toward modernism, focusing on subjective perspectives and emotional depth over mere visual impressions.

4. Impact of Symbolism and Modern Art

Symbolism inspired movements like Expressionism and Surrealism, encouraging emotional and spiritual depth. Nietzsche's philosophy influenced Symbolists, advocating self-realization and rejecting societal norms. Edvard Munch's *The Scream* captures modern anxiety, expressing alienation in a rapidly changing world. This emotional intensity became a hallmark of modern art, extending Symbolism's legacy beyond France.

5. Social Darwinism and Heart of Darkness

Social Darwinism misapplied evolution to justify imperialism and inequality. In *Heart of Darkness*, Conrad critiques this ideology by exposing the moral decay of European imperialists. The novella highlights the brutality and dehumanization inflicted on colonized peoples, questioning the supposed "civilizing mission" and revealing the darkness within those who exploit others.

6. Artist to Explore in Depth

I would explore Edvard Munch, whose works like *The Scream* reflect the anxieties of the modern age. His innovative focus on emotion and psychological themes influenced Expressionism. *The Scream* symbolizes universal fear and alienation, making it a defining piece of modern art. Munch's ability to convey raw emotion remains historically significant.

Sayre, Henry. *The Humanities: Culture, Continuity, and Change*. Pearson.

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Elena Maria Vallejos Ochoa (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/510733>)



Jan 21 11:02am | Last reply Jan 21 6:23pm

1 Describe the fin de siècle sensibility and how Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reflect it. Choose an artist from each movement, upload a

painting from each work, and describe in great detail. How does Symbolism differ from Realism? In what way are dance and music quintessential Symbolist media?

Fin de siècle sensibility:

The term "fin de siècle" describes the social, artistic, and cultural situation of the late 19th century, which was marked by decadence and extravagance as it transitioned into the 20th century. Even though the period celebrated progress in science and technology, people grew skeptical about the ability of creativity and reason to solve human issues.

-Art Nouveau:

- Art Nouveau: Artist: Gustav Klimt
- Work: Judith I (1901)

Analysis: This painting is very iconic due to how Klimt made the swirl pattern and how rich the gold leaf is with it, but still with that, Judith stands out. Klimt portrayed Judith as a modern, powerful woman in a seductive way, making her look sensual and powerful, portraying fin de siècle fascination with beauty and decadence

-Realism:

- Artist: Henrik Ibsen
- Work: A Doll's House (1879)

Analysis: This is not a painting but Ibsen's approach to social critique with his realism. Nora, who is the protagonist of this portrays marriage in a harsh way to highlight and expose the constraints of Victorian gender norms. Using metaphor, Ibsen symbolizes the limitations and hypocrisy of the domestic realm in the "doll house."

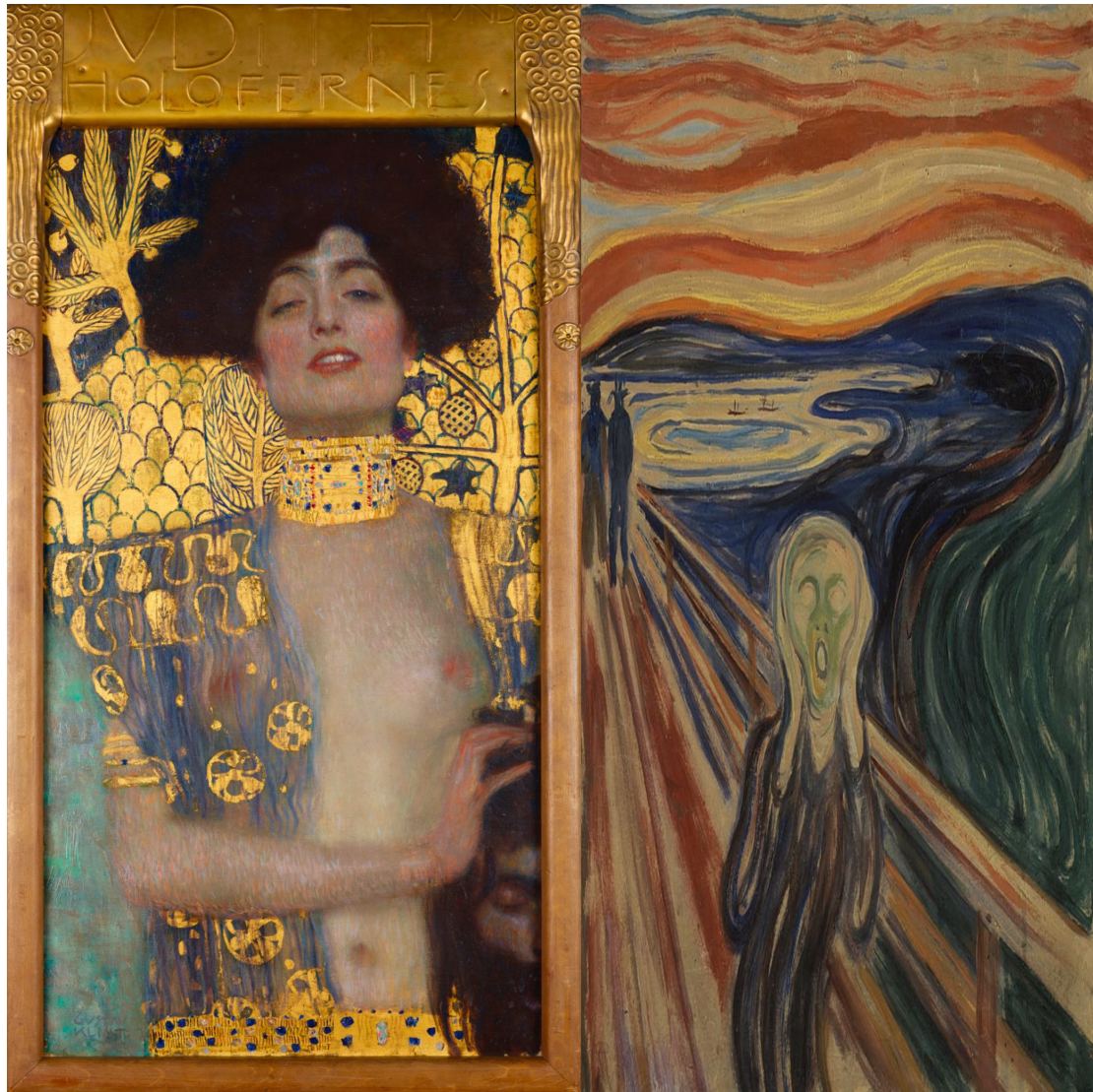
-Symbolism:

- Artist: Edvard Munch
- Work: The Scream (1893)

-Analysis: In this painting, Edvard Munch portrays the existential fear and anxiety of the modern individual. Munch used different swirling patterns with vivid colors, also distorting the form

Subjectively to capture the experience of mental illness. Unlike Realism, Symbolism emphasizes all the internal states and emotions rather than external realities.

I attach the photo of Julieth I and The scream because the doll house is not a painting.



-How Symbolism Differs from Realism: The difference between symbolism and realism is that realism focuses more on using realistic features while portraying life and society, while symbolism contrasts more and focuses on the internal representation, portraying emotions and expressions that explore the psychological side.

-Dance and Music as Symbolist Media: Dance and music can express ideas and emotions in many ways but in this case it can be expressed without word using emphasizing Symbolist ideals by using movements and sounds that can transcend literal and different meanings to create unique experiences.

2 Differentiate among the innovations that Post-Impressionist artists brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post-Impressionism.

-Post-Impressionist Innovations: Post-impressionism portrays transients and lightful moments that explore emotional depth, symbolic content, and structural form.

- Seurat: he introduced pointillism using tiny dots of color and a shimmering technique.
- Cézanne: playing with different colors and perspectives, and how he portrayed his works using his own brushstroke technique, concentrating on organizing color to represent spatial depth to make his work feel alive.
- Van Gogh: His work used impasto with very unique and symbolic colors that convey emotions in the form of brushstrokes, and his colors mainly included orange, red, yellow, blues, and greens. He also used repetitive lines and pointillism, layering strokes on each other.

-Van Gogh's Contribution:

- Painting: The Starry Night (1889)

Analysis: In The Starry Night, Van Gogh used different and vivid colors, including yellow, blues, and white, mixing different geometric shapes while including his brushstroke technique, creating a very vibrant and charged sky and a small village with a church and a cypress tree, each color used in that painting represents something. Van Gogh also used his impasto technique to add texture to the painting and bring it to life. This painting represents internal conflicts and spiritual needs that transitioned to modern art.

3 Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's The Scream reveal about the modern world?

-Impact of Symbolism: By rejecting traditional representation and examining the subjective and abstract symbolism established the foundations for modernist movements. Along with this, it influenced expressionism, abstraction, and surrealism in art.

-Nietzsche's Teachings: Using his philosophy, Nietzsche reflected creativity and individualism, which reflected all of the ongoing issues in the modern era. He also challenged the traditional values, religion, and morality and the rise of the Übermensch.

-Munch's The Scream: In The Scream, Munch captured the psychological fear and how modern life had existential dread. This resonates with Nietzsche's concept of how chaotic and irrational life was, capturing his work with a grotesque figure's anguished cry set against a blood-red sky.

4 What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the

theory in his novella Heart of Darkness?

-Social Darwinism: Social Darwinism is the concept of ideas that apply the Charles Darwin's theory that includes evolution that justifies racial superiority and imperialism

-Conrad's Reaction: In Heart of Darkness, Conrad criticizes how imperialism can dehumanize everyone involved. Throughout the story, there is a change, and it is seen how it is seen as an idealist but later becomes a tyrant, and then Conrad highlights the dishonesty of developing missions by Kurtz declining into evil and demonstrating how Social Darwinism breeds cruelty and devastation and reflects the moral decay of colonialism.

5 Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist.

Artist: Vincent van Gogh, Van Gogh greatly influenced the development of modern art and expressionism. His paintings are known for their vivid colors and brushwork and for resonating with his life.

Significant Piece: The Starry Night (1889)

Reason for Choice: I mainly picked this because it is one of my favorite paintings, and the meaning that it has makes it even more interesting because it reflects Van Gogh's mental health during that time and how everyone used to hate him but now he is very influential because of the meaning of his works and the application of expressive and emotive techniques.

> **3 Replies, 3 Unread** |  **Reply** |  **Mark as Unread**



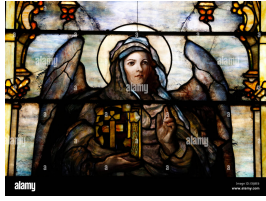
Matteo Carletti (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/531616>)



Jan 20 10:40pm | Last reply Jan 21 6:27pm

1. The fin de siècle sensibility reflects the mood of cultural and artistic change in the 19th century Europe, marked by a mix of decadence, disillusionment, and optimism for the future. This period characterized by rejection of traditional values and a desire for innovation. Art Nouveau represents the pursuit of innovation and beauty. Realism focuses on depicting ordinary and reality of human condition without

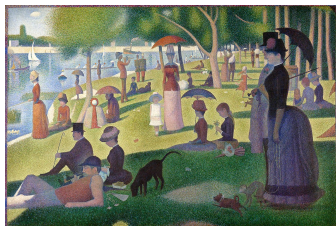
romanticization or idealization. Symbolism explores deeper meanings, focusing on mystical and existential questions of the time.



This stained-glass window was made by Louis Comfort. This window represents an angel holding a Bible. What makes this art so special is the fact that it was created on a glass window to have in homes.



Auguste Rodin made the Monument to Balzac, which is a sculpture made out of bronze. This sculpture was known as "colossal clown" and "snowman"



The painting 'A Sunday on La Grande Jatte' was made by Georges Seurat. This painting uses pointillism technique, which creates a vibrant image through small dots using the colors red, blue, and green. The painting depicts a group of people at a park relaxing, strolling, and enjoying the sunny day.

Symbolism emphasizes imagination and emotions. It uses symbols and metaphors to convey deeper meanings. Realism on the other hand focuses on depicting life as it is. It strives for truthful representation, usually addressing social and political realities. Dance and music are quintessential symbolic media because it relies on abstract and emotions rather than direct representation.

2. Post-impressionist moved toward emotion, symbolism, structure, and abstraction, each of these contributing to modern art. Van Gogh used color bold and vibrant colors to express emotions rather than depicting reality. The Starry Night used blue for the night sky and a vibrant yellow for the show a sense of wonder. The dark sky and glowing stars conveyed hope. Van Gogh's innovative use of color redefined the way of expression through painting.

3. The impact that symbolism had on the rise of modern art outside of France was profound, since it introduced a new way of abstraction and emotion that influenced artistic movements around the world. Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's *The Scream* revealed profound insights about anxieties and existential challenges of the modern world during the fin de siècle period.

4. Social Darwinism explained the supposed social and cultural evolution that elevated Europe (and the white race) above all other nations and races. Europeans, it was argued, were the fitter race and thus were destined not merely to survive but to dominate the world. Joseph Conrad critiques destructive effects of imperialism, which was often justified through social Darwinism. He then used imagery to expose the moral and physiological consequences of imperialism.

5. Van Gogh was an artist who changed art by focusing on emotions and feelings instead of using realism. His painting *The Starry Night* shows this perfectly. Its swirling sky and bright colors reflect his emotions and struggles. *The Starry Night* shows his unique style and how he turned his struggles into powerful art. He inspired many artists and changed how people thought about painting.

> **3 Replies, 3 Unread** |  **Reply** |  **Mark as Unread**



Christopher Alicea (He/Him) (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/531328>)



Jan 20 7:57pm | Last reply Jan 21 6:15pm

1. The fin de siècle era at the end of the 19th century reflected a mix of sophistication, escapism, and pessimism. Art Nouveau embraced decorative, organic forms, as seen in Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss*, with its intricate and complex shapes. Much of the painting is unrecognizable as

something from reality, aside from the human heads.



Realism focused on ordinary life, like Gustave Courbet's *The Stone Breakers*, which accurately depicts the hard labor of the working class. It depicts the workers in an accurate, life-like way. As the name suggests, it's the style that appears the most real.



Symbolism rejected realism's focus on the observable world to explore emotions and dreams, as shown in Odilon Redon's *The Cyclops*. It's a lot more realistic than the Art Nouveau style, but not as realistic as Realism. While at first glance they look similar, Symbolism doesn't strive for accuracy the way Realism does. It focuses more on feeling and emotion than what is. Symbolism uses dance and music to convey nonverbal emotions, emphasizing expression over reality, and movement over words.



2. Post-Impressionist artists went beyond Impressionism, focusing on emotional expression and structure. Vincent van Gogh's bold colors and swirling brushstrokes brought intense emotion to his works. In *The Starry Night*, his vibrant yellows and blues create a dreamlike energy, and his

thick paint application gives the piece texture.



3. Symbolism inspired modern art by focusing on emotions and psychological depth. Nietzsche's ideas on existentialism and rejecting traditional values influenced Symbolist themes of inner struggles. Edvard Munch's *The Scream* captures the anxiety of modern life with its distorted figure and swirling colors that express existential dread. Both Nietzsche and Munch highlight a world struggling with uncertainty, laying the groundwork for later movements like Expressionism.

4. Social Darwinism applies Darwin's natural selection theory to human societies, often to justify racism and imperialism. In *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad criticizes this idea by exposing European colonialism's brutality. The character Kurtz reveals how the so-called "civilizing mission" masks greed and cruelty, challenging the notion of European superiority.

5. My personal favorite artist of all the ones covered in this section is Van Gogh. His emotional and bold use of color completely transformed modern art. He prioritized feeling over realism, influencing movements like Expressionism. His painting *Sunflowers* showcases his love of vibrant yellows and symbolizes warmth and hope. This piece reflects his belief that art should capture more than appearances. I chose him because I know of his work the best, and I also just liked his portrayal in the TV series *Doctor Who*.

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Melany Panadeiro (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/443166>)



Jan 20 5:25pm | Last edited Jan 20 5:47pm | Last reply Jan 21 7:10pm

Describe the fin de siècle sensibility and how Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism reflect it. Choose an artist from each movement (Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism), upload a painting from each work and describe in great detail. How does Symbolism differ from Realism? In what way are dance and music quintessential Symbolist media?

The fin de siècle focuses on the last decades of the nineteenth century. This era was marked by a mixture of anxiety and decadence, with the slight inclusion of optimism as society was trying to manage traditional values with the rapid changes within technology and culture. Art styles such as Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism were some of the most popular art styles from this period. Art Nouveau focuses on attempting to create harmony between art and everyday life. The art style emphasized the ideas of beauty and nature and addressed themes of spirituality and the escape from realities (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). Realism focused

on the lives of the ordinary, often highlighting social and political issues. Within the time of constant social change, realist artists created pieces of the struggles of the working class and drew attention to social inequalities instead of idealized representations of society. Realism helped capture the challenges and anxiety of the period. Symbolism focused on emotions, the subconscious, and spirituality, responding to the anxieties of the era. This art style rejects realism's ideals and instead highlights themes such as mystery, death, psychology, and the supernatural. Alongside it also grew the fascination of the unknown and the complexities of human experiences (Myers, 2007).

Symbolism

The Apparition 1974-1976 by Gustave Moreau



This painting follows the story of Salome, who provided a seductive and erotic dance for her stepfather, Herod, during a banquet. Herod, after being enchanted by Salome's dancing, granted her one wish to request. After discussing the request with her mother (Herodias), Salome requested John the Baptist's head on a platter, as Herodias decided John the Baptist for criticizing her marriage to Herod (Harvard, n.d.).

Within the foreground of the painting, you can see Salome pointing at the severed head of John the Baptist. Salome is shown as a femme fatale,

a woman who is seen as mysterious, seductive, and beautiful. While she is pointing at the severed head of John the Baptist, she looks ahead with determination and confidence, affirming her femme fatale character. On the left, behind Salome, we can see Herod sitting on a throne with Herodias beside him observing the scene and John the Baptist's executioner standing on the right side of the painting, adding drama to the moment (Harvard, n.d.).

This painting was a large statement within the Symbolist art movement as a reaction against realism and naturalism. The symbolism focused on representing psychological, mystical, emotional, and supernatural themes instead of subjects focused on reality. The apparition provides an ethereal and dreamlike quality, which is assisted by the light use of reflecting the Symbolist emphasis on emotions, psychological, and supernatural themes instead of literal subjects. Music and dance were also closely related to symbolism, as unlike visual art music and dance could express emotion and mood in ways that were more immersive. Depending on a person's body language and facial characteristics, dance could bring a multitude of meanings and symbolism, such as emotional conflict, happiness, sadness, or grief. Similarly, with the melodies and compositions it could evoke a variety of emotional responses, it allowed the listeners to experience and connect with abstract feelings in a way that visual art cannot always achieve.

Realism

The Gleaners by Jean Francois Millet

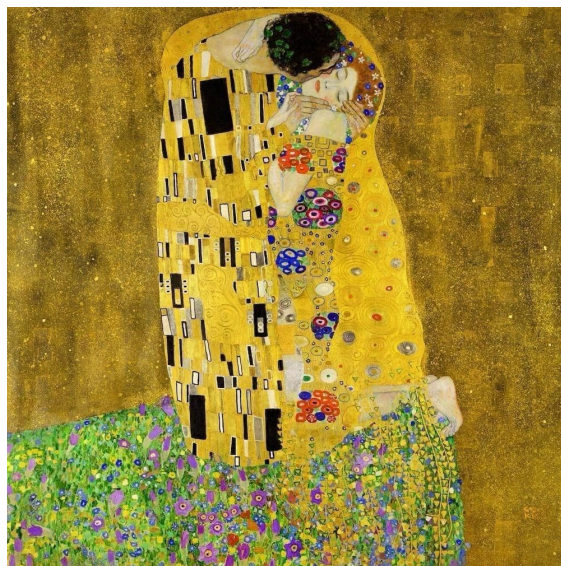


The Gleaners is a famous painting created by Jean Francois Millet in 1857. The painting shows three women collecting grains from a field. It portrays the labor and hardships of the lower class, emphasizing the physical exhaustion of the women as they are shown bending down to collect the grain. The painting helps portray the perseverance and

dignity of manual labor while slightly critiquing social inequalities. The background shows vast fields, animals, and neighborhoods aligning with the Realist movement's focus on portraying ordinary life and the economic struggles people had to face within the era (*Jean Francois Millet | Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom*, n.d.).

Art Nouveau

The Kiss by Gustave Klimt



The Kiss painting is an extremely popular painting within the realm of Art Nouveau. The painting shows a couple experiencing an intimate moment in the middle of a flower field. The man, wears a gold robe with geometric patterns and leaves in his hair, gently kissing the woman's face. The woman wears a dress with colorful and floral patterns, with flowers in her hair and has her eyes closed, which can represent feelings of peace and love. Their facial expressions and body language suggests a deep physical and emotional connection, highlighting the harmony and unity within their relationship (Richman-Abdou, 2017).

Differentiate among the innovations that the Post-Impressionist artist brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post Impressionism.

"A starry night" created by Vincent Van Gogh in 1889 Van Gogh is one of the most iconic post-impressionists works within the post-impressionist movement. As a post- impressionist artist Van Gogh focused on emotional expression that naturalistic demonstrations. Through his paintings, he used vibrant colors to invoke emotion, applying thick layers

using a technique that created movement and texture, in turn adding emotional intensity through his works. Within the painting, the sky can reflect Van Gogh's perspective of the world rather than an objective view. (The Art Story, 2013)

Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's *The Scream* reveal about the modern world?

Nietzsche's teachings were extremely bold and challenged the concepts of religion, government, and morality. After Nietzsche pronounced the death of God, he believed that religion created a "slave morality," believing that a person creates their own potential, then they are "who can be the loneliest, the most hidden, the most deviating" (Pearson+, 2025). Nietzsche also believed that democracy only strived to uphold mediocrity. Nietzsche' believed that instead we need to be led by extraordinary individuals or "Übermensch.". In turn creating a place where the blind faith was questioned. Edvard Munch, influenced by artists like Van Gogh, captured the emotions of anxiety and existential dread regarding the modern world in *The Scream*.

What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the theory to his novella *Heart of Darkness*?

Social Darwinism is the ideology that some people become powerful or end up in positions of power because they are naturally better than others. Suggesting that competition and "survival of the fittest" are the best ways to determine societal progress. Joseph Conrad's reaction to this theory through his novella *Heart of Darkness* expresses that the Darwinist ideology is a dehumanizing practice. Conrad uses his novella to question the consent of imperial domination and colonization justification. Believing that Kurtz's call to "exterminate all the brutes" would only lead to genocide.

Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist.

5. One artist I would like to explore in depth is Edvard Munch. Due to his work in emotional and psychological depiction through symbolism and expressionism, he captures a variety of emotions such as love, fear, and anxiety in relation to modern-day life. One of his most significant pieces

was *"The Scream,"* where he uses Van Gogh's techniques to capture a moment of dread and fear. This painting has become iconic over the years due to the demonstrations of the anxieties of life and feelings of isolation (*Edvard Munch*, n.d.) The reason why I chose this artist was because I really liked how he uses art to demonstrate natural feelings people have. With the stress ordinary people experienced during that period, it was able to offer others from similar or different backgrounds a way to relate to the emotions being expressed.

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Cecelia Quinnan (*She/Her*) (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/522691>) 

Jan 20 4:50pm | Last reply Jan 21 7:24pm

1. The Fin de Siecle was decadent. It was the start of new beginnings in art that was a kind of modernism in art.

Art de Nouveau- Louis Comford Tiffany, Stained Glass Window, 1894. I love this piece of art because stained glass just reminds me of godly aspects. Stained glass windows allow the light to pass through with a hue of what glass they used in each part.



Symbolism- August Rodin, Dancing Figure, 1905. I really love this artwork because I used to be a dancer. People would feel different things when they look at this photo. Personally, I see a girl in agony because this is not an easy pose. Dance can be really frustrating sometimes and that is why I feel this way.



Realism- Paul Cezanna, The peppermint bottle, 1893-95. Realism is truly amazing because this is how the objects looked like when they were painted. It is similar to a photo, but more time and thought was taken into it. You really have to put so much thought into painting realism. You have to think about things folding over each other, and light is a big aspect. You have to study how light passes through each object or if it bounces off.



Symbolism differs from realism because with realism, you are trying to capture how something actually looks. With symbolism, you can try and capture different aspects, like how something makes you feel or the thought behind something. Music and dance are very important in the symbolist period because that's how people could express their feelings without words. There are so many styles of dance and some of them, like lyrical dance, are really emotional some times. Dances sometimes can be portrayed differently by different people.

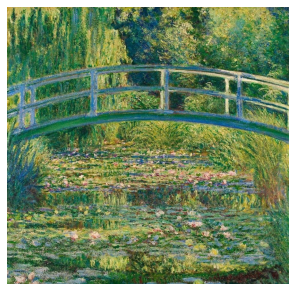
2. The artist post-impressionism brought techniques that helped advance art. From different colors and brush strokes, to abstract art. Van Gogh helped contribute with using brighter colors. His famous "Starry Night" held contrasting colors. A balance of light and dark to help bring out the importance in everything. The brush strokes he used were like nothing else. Small jagged lines to create a flowy atmosphere. Everything about this painting was way ahead of its time. The trees capture a moment of wind passing through, yet the town is so detailed and still. The town flows to the mountains so gracefully and the night sky. All the stars glowing in different hues. The wind swirling in the background capture the serenity.

3. Friedrich Nietzsche led the impact of symbolism outside of France. "The birth of tragedy" poem shows how dance and song helps express feelings one cannot speak with words. It goes into depth how emotional and powerful it can be. Affecting all the nature around him. Becoming god-like. The layers of ecstasy helps him into transforming into art himself, not just an artist. Edvard Munch's "The Scream" reveals that extreme isolation can be caught in a form and color. The brushstrokes and focal point helps the viewers feel the essence of inevitable fate. The colors surrounding the painting help show the blood-curdling anxiety of the focal point, the man.

4. Social Darwinism is a 19th century ideology of race. Social and cultural evolution. They were trying to find the best race not limited to survival of the fittest. It went past the point of survival, to see who would dominate the world. "Heart of darkness" was a mysterious poem written by Joseph Conrad. In the poem, it shows a depth into the unknown. Mysterious life in the forest and jungles. Fascination in the mysteries of the unknown. That is what the words were saying. However, it was meaning something totally different. The message they were trying to get across was Europeans and Africans. It wasn't saying either side was better, just distinguishing the unknown of the two cultures.

5. Claude Monet was very significant to me. The hardships of life and overcoming obstacles. Monet left Paris to a small village. He lived next to a pond with water lilies and a Japanese bridge. In Monet's "The Water Lily Pond", it showed his current life. The glorious Japanese bridge cascading the water lilies. All of the greenery surrounding the background, making the pink water lilies pop in the reflections of the lake. Seeing this painting, I feel serene and at peace. There is such a nice quiet within the

atmosphere of this painting.



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Nelson Santos Shikicima (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/531004>)



Jan 18 9:26pm | Last edited Jan 21 6:07pm | Last reply Jan 21 6:33pm

1. The term "fin de siècle" refers to the cultural and artistic expression at the end of the 19th century. The movement focused on breaking out of traditional values of the 19th century, meaning that artists would then explore irrational and modern topics (p. 4). The feeling that defines this era was pessimism where people would lose traditional and religious connection and focus on the "new" (p. 24).

The term "fin de siècle" refers to the cultural and artistic expression at the end of the 19th century, mainly in France. The movement focused on breaking out of traditional values of the 19th century, meaning that artists would then explore irrational and modern topics (p. 4). The feeling that defines this era was pessimism where people would lose traditional and religious connection and focus on the "new" (p. 24). Art Nouveau reflects fin de siècle sensibility by incorporating a vision of beauty and elegance in paintings, architecture, textiles, and other elements. The break away from traditional values and idealization of connection with nature, defined transitional style. This movement would also imply "sexual overtones" which suggested revolt against traditions of the 19th century. Gustav Klimt's "Judith I" (Fig. 1) is representative of the decorative style of Art Nouveau, fusing symbolism and sensuality. The painting of Judith was done with a bold gaze, almost provocative, pointing toward her power and seduction, against intricate patterns of gold that enhanced its rich, decorative quality ("Judith I (1901) by Gustav Klimt - Artchive").

Realism rejected idealized representations and focused on the average man and his everyday life without embellishments, often portraying social hardships and injustices (Britannica). In page 7 of the textbook, plays like Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" are mentioned. The play is about Nora Helmer, who slowly comes to realize that her life is defined by society, not by herself. The decision of Nora to leave her family in order to find independence was revolutionary for its time. A painting from the same style, for example, would be Gustave Courbet's "The Stone Breakers" (Fig. 2) exemplifies this by showing a young boy and an older man working to break stones, showing the never-ending cycle of poverty. With earthy tones and a stark, unglorified composition, Courbet underscores the grueling aspect of their labor and thus signals one of his powerful statements on harsh realities the classes below had to go through.

Symbolism in the 19th century referred to the conveying of emotions and ideas through the use of symbols rather than naturalistic representations. It explored themes of love, death, and spirituality, seeking to evoke meanings deeper and inside the self (p. 8). The Dancing Figure (Fig. 3) by Auguste Rodin depicted a captured moment in pose and line of the body. The textural quality of this sculpture varies from rough to smooth, insinuating physical grace and emotional intensity, hence symbolizing the fluidity of life and inner experience.



Whereas realism focuses on the depiction of the physical world, symbolism is all about evoking emotions and the subconscious by means of abstract representations. Dance and music are quintessential Symbolist media since they both express intangible emotions and moods through movement and sound (Anthi Georgiadou). The fluid harmonies and atmospheric qualities found in Claude Debussy's music are a mirror to the way in which Symbolism aimed at the evocation of feeling over narrative, while in dance, inner emotional states are conveyed through movement and often emphasize grace and abstraction (pp. 8 and 11).

2. Differentiate among the innovations that the Post-Impressionist artist brought to their painting. What did Van Gogh contribute in terms of color and paint application? Choose one painting to help explain Post Impressionism.

A number of innovations by the Post-Impressionists such as Pointillism, brought about by Georges Seurat, where the painter places on the canvas small dots of pure color (p. 11). It allows the eye of the viewer to mix colors together, thus allowing luminous effects. Another originality was in the way color structure was explored (p. 12). For example, Paul Cézanne concentrated on an object's geometric form to invest it with dimension and structure in his colors rather than grasping at certain light and atmosphere (pp.15-16). Vincent van Gogh, according to original color

symbolism, used bright, contrasting colors to represent emotion, not the natural world. He used color as a bearer of emotional expression by means of thick, expressive brushstrokes and bold color choices alike. Just consider his paintings, such as *Night Café* (Fig. 4) (pp.13-14). Each of these innovations reflects a shift from realistic representation toward more subjective, symbolic, and emotional interpretations of the world, marking the Post-Impressionist era as a bridge to modern art.



3. Examine the impact of Symbolism on the rise of modern art outside of France. What do Nietzsche's teachings and Edvard Munch's *The Scream* reveal about the modern world?

Symbolism reached far beyond France, tugging at the coat of modern artists around Europe in their hunt for emotional, psychological, and spiritual truths to portray. The teachings of Nietzsche, particularly his dictum "God is dead" in *The Gay Science*, demolished the traditional values of the time, allowing exploration of existential profundity in art and literature (p. 23). This rejection of established norms may be seen in Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, where the distorted figure screams into the turbulent sky—the loneliness and anxiousness of the modern condition (p. 24). In fact, Munch's search for inner turmoil and psychological depth in the soul was quite in parallel with Nietzsche's critique of modernity, with the disintegration of conventional systems of belief (The Munch's). The madman in Nietzsche's philosophy speaks to the loss of meaning in the modern world, while Munch's work, especially his depiction of emotional isolation, captured this existential crisis. Both the philosophy of Nietzsche and the art of Munch point toward the struggles of alienation, spiritual certainty breakdown, and searching for personal meaning that the modern world experiences (pp. 23-24).

4. What is Social Darwinism? How does Joseph Conrad react to the

theory to his novella Heart of Darkness?

Social Darwinism takes the theory of natural selection developed by Charles Darwin and applies it to human societies, where superior races or cultures view imperialism, colonization, and even genocide as justifiable (p. 26). There are those who argue that weaker civilizations would naturally be dominated by stronger ones, thus justifying European expansion into both Africa and Asia in the 19th century (p. 25). Joseph Conrad critiques this theory in *Heart of Darkness*. Through the character of Kurtz, which at the outset of his journey represents a "civilizing" mission, Conrad shows the pernicious outcomes of imperialism: Kurtz's madness reveals how Social Darwinism leads to exploitation, dehumanization, and even genocide, showing moral emptiness behind imperialism and devastating action on indigenous cultures (p. 27).

5. Share one artist from this section that you would like to explore in depth. Explain the historical significance of their work. Choose one significant piece of artwork that you believe reflects who they are as an artist. Describe why you chose this artist.

One artist I would like to explore more into is Claude Monet, an artist who fundamentally changed the shape of art by focusing on light, color, and perception. "The Japanese Footbridge and the Water Lily Pool, Giverny" painted by Claude Monet has special significance for me because I studied for the first time in fifth grade about its importance and his art has connected me to my passion in painting landscapes. The bridge, situated in Monet's famous garden in Giverny, stands for the artist's reflection on his personal life and a blend of cultures with an ever-inviting love for Japanese prints. A series of works under the title *Water Lilies* concludes with several mural versions, inviting the viewer into color and reflective personal experience. After the death of Monet, the installations presented at the Orangery revealed a movement towards abstraction, one that challenges perceptions and stresses subjective experience over exact representation.

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Taliangelys Bracero (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/506221>)



Jan 17 12:54am | Last reply Jan 19 10:57am

1. Fin de siecle sensibility represents uncertainty and change into transition.

Art Nouveau I chose the artist Gustav and the painting I chose is Klimt painting the kiss this work includes patters natural organic forms showing sensuality. For realism the artist I chose Gustavo and chose the Courbet painting this shows laborers realism embracing the tough reality of life. Now symbolism the artist chose is Odilon Redon and the painting chose is the cyclops this painting it uses mythological imagery to search for dreams and with in emotions. Symbolism differs from realism due to its focus on showing ideas and feelings through symbols instead of reality. Dance and music are quintessential symbolist media because they represents emotions and ideas without having to show a literal presentation.

2. Post-impressionist artist showed innovations for example the use of colors, thick point. application, and brush work The painting chose is starry night this shows vibrant colors and swirling skies.

3. Symbolism showed modern outside of France by encouraging artist to learn psychologic. The scream shows a modern world with existential angst and traditional values. The pairing the scream by Edvard Munch shows anxiety and despair of modern age showing Nietzschean themes of crisis.

4. Social Darwinism applies Darwinian principles of natural selection to human society. Joseph's heart of darkness shows theory of exposing brutality and moral corruption.

5. Edvard Munch his work is very historical and good to know and exploration of psychological themes also.

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[William Villatoro \(https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/532536\)](https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/532536)



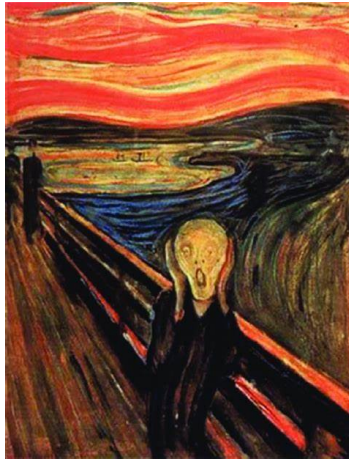
Jan 17 12:16am | Last reply Jan 21 11:30am

The fin de siècle was a period in the late 1800's of innovation and movement. This period also means the "end of the century". Art nouveau was expressed as a traditional style that included sexual overtones, flowers, plants, and green in the paintings. Symbolism differed from Nouveau as it aimed more for feelings and emotions through the paintings with shapes different symbols and colors. Realism gives off real-life scenes and matters that would look realistic and target the struggle of humans.

This is called The Kiss by Gustav Klimt(art nouveau). This painting shows a man holding/hugging while kissing her cheek. Both are covered in a gold robe. This expresses how Art Nouveau was shown, using vibrant colors to light up the painting. At first, it is confusing to understand, but once it seems closer, it starts to form.



For symbolism, I chose Evard Munch known as "the scream" This shows a person screaming either out of distress or fear causing him to pose with his hands on his head screaming.



For realism art I chose Jean-François Millet, I decided on this painting since it gives a representation of how life was before for a normal life in the 1800s.



2. Post-Impressionism is innovated with vivid colors and a style of art with bold colors to show emotions of the paintings. Van Gogh expresses with long strokes and complementary colors in his paintings. The painting I chose is 'The Starry Night' giving off assorted colors with different shapes and giving a night color with the stars out.



3. symbolism is developed by new and often abstracts that are expressed in many different ways and were popular during the 19th century it had an important impact it had on modernists outside of France it gained attention quickly between realism and naturalism was popular during the early century many artists began to adapt this art style such as Edvard Munch and Friedrich Nietzsche. Munch got inspiration from Van Gogh, especially his brushwork. Giving the inspiration behind the Scream filled with anxiety and distortion
4. Social Darwinism is the theory that individuals, groups, and people are subjected to the laws of natural selection for plants and animals. the way that Joseph Conrad reacted to the many interpretations of his novella is some believe to be a great piece of literature, and some believe it to be shown some racism and colonialist

5 one artist that caught my attention during this section would have to be Van Gogh his paintings peaked out like no other sort of spoke a message to their viewers even though his paintings were not as famous during his time now in this modern time it is one of the most well-known paintings known to man.



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SP

Sarah Procsal (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/511046>)

Jan 15 5:57pm | Last edited Jan 15 5:59pm | Last reply Jan 20 6:48pm

The fin de siècle sensibility, which emerged at the end of the 19th century, was characterized by a sense of transition, decadence, and

uncertainty about the future. It reflected widespread disillusionment with a growing desire for new forms of artistic expression that broke away from traditional values. This sensibility found expression in various art movements, including Art Nouveau, Realism, and Symbolism, each offering unique interpretations of the era's anxieties and aspirations. Art Nouveau, for example, emphasized organic forms, flowing lines, and the integration of art into everyday life. A prominent artist of this movement, Gustav Klimt, captured its essence in his masterpiece *The Kiss*, which is a blend of ornamental design, sensuality, and the use of gold leaf to create intricate, organic patterns. In contrast, Realism focused on the depiction of everyday life, social issues, and unidealized portrayals of the working class. Gustave Courbet's *The Stone Breakers* exemplifies this movement by presenting the harsh realities of manual labor in a straightforward and unromanticized style. Meanwhile, Symbolism turned away from the material world, exploring emotions, imagination, and the mysterious through metaphorical imagery. The key difference between Symbolism and Realism is in their focus. While Realism aims to show the observable world and provide social commentary, Symbolism delves into the inner world of emotions, dreams, and spirituality.

Post-Impressionism expanded on Impressionism's emphasis on color and light by introducing greater emotional depth and structural experimentation. One of the most influential artists of this movement, Vincent van Gogh, made significant contributions through his use of bold, expressive colors and thick, dynamic brushstrokes, which conveyed intense emotion and energy. His masterpiece *Starry Night* really show cases these innovations, Van Gogh's work pushed the boundaries of artistic expression, paving the way for modern art movements to explore the emotional and psychological dimensions of creativity.

Symbolism had a profound impact on modern art outside France, inspiring movements such as Expressionism and Surrealism by emphasizing subjective experience over objective reality. This focus on personal emotion and imagination allowed artists to explore deeper psychological and spiritual themes. Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy, particularly his concepts of the "will to power" and existentialism, further shaped this artistic direction by highlighting the struggles of modern life and the pervasive sense of alienation and despair. These ideas are vividly reflected in Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, which captures the existential angst of the modern world. Through its distorted forms, bold use of color, and intense emotional resonance, the painting powerfully conveys the

psychological pressures and inner turmoil of human existence, making it a cornerstone of Symbolist influence on modern art.

Social Darwinism, a misapplication of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, was used to justify social hierarchies, imperialism, and the idea of racial and cultural superiority. Joseph Conrad critiques this ideology in his novella *Heart of Darkness* by exposing the brutal and dehumanizing effects of imperialism. Through vivid depictions of exploitation and moral decay, Conrad rejects the notion of Western superiority, revealing the hypocrisy and inhumanity at the core of imperialist endeavors. His work challenges the justifications of Social Darwinism, offering a powerful critique of its devastating impact on both colonizers and the colonized.

I would like to explore Edvard Munch in greater depth, as he was a pioneering figure in Expressionism who used his art to delve into universal themes such as love, death, and anxiety. One of his most iconic works, *The Scream*, epitomizes the human condition by capturing the emotional and psychological turmoil of modern life through its haunting imagery and bold, expressive style. Munch's work resonates deeply due to its timeless exploration of raw human emotions and its profound influence on subsequent art movements. His ability to convey the complexities of inner experience makes him a compelling artist to study further.

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Jasmyne Christello (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/513286>)



Jan 13 9:16am | Last reply Jan 19 11:01am

1. The Fin de Siecle means the ending of a time, in this case the "end of the last decade in the 19th century." This was the start to the change of art and most people had worries on if the change should be allowed or if they should stick to the ways they know. Art nouveau which means new art reflects this because this art style started to show more of a contemporary and traditional look. Some examples for homes was floral aspects, to decorate the house and the use of plants. Symbolism is the form of art where there is "dreams and imagination aspects to form this

art work. The artist uses those things to symbolize and create a main point of the art. Realism is when the artist uses more of a contemporary approach like art nouveau to show a certain reality and make something in reality known through art. Symbolism is different than realism because symbolism is focusing on one thing or one part of something to be heightened in the art work like dreams or something apart of the imagination, whereas realism is focusing on a real life event or real life aspect and making that scene shown through the art. Dance and music are essential to symbolism because they are forms of art that are typically telling a story either through movements and stories in a choreography of a dance or through the sound and voice of music. In the first artwork it shows art nouveau because it shows more of a contemporary look with the gold accents and use of colors, this piece also stood out to me for this type of art because of the meaning I learned about in the textbook, the artist was showing that under these types of clothes, women have an elemental spirit to them like Judith. The next artwork shows realism because it is showing a scene that you can go see in real life in Paris. Showcasing some people and the trees around the center decor. Lastly the third one is symbolism because of the heavy use of makeup on the females and the move to a more modern clothing style is showing the change in time.



2. Post impressionist artist used techniques like highlighting the amount of light can be seen or using colors that blend well together but also let the painting stand out. A great example of this is Van Gogh who uses bold colors and different types of brush strokes to heighten elements in his art. One example of this is Van Goghs painting of the starry night, specifically the background representing the night sky. Instead of using a more traditional style to show a night sky he incorporates colors that someone would associate with the night sky and makes the sky have more of a swirl effect. Everyone who looks at the painting can tell it represents the sky, but Van Gogh does his work with more of a color

pinpoint and bold appeal instead of traditional looking art that shows a direct image of the real world.

3. Symbolism is art that is often used to interpret dreams and the idea of the imagination. The artist typically makes a main idea of their painting to show how it reflects to reality. When I look at the art work *Scream I* I immediately feel like the art work is showing a view of anxiety and stress and how that can make a person feel. They may not be showing it on the outside but on the inside the art work exactly describes what psychological feelings are happening. After some further research it seems to overall express that and how this art represents the cry and scream of someone and how life experiences can create this feeling for someone. Another main point isn't just the person itself but the color of the sky transitioning from a more relaxed blue to a bright vibrant red.

4. Social Darwinism's is when people believe that the "reason certain people are where they are in life or because they have a better standing in society is because overall, they are just better people in general." "A way to justify certain beliefs and feelings." Social Darwinism was even used to show excuses for inequality such as racism and sexism because social Darwinism is formed off the beliefs that certain people are better and that's just how it is. "From Social Darwinism History.com" Joseph Conrad wanted to show in his novella how wrong social Darwinism is and how it brought so many consequences. In *The Heart of Darkness* he takes some of his real life conversations from being a sailor and merchant and shows how much negative effects social Darwinism's has proved to be. Reading through the novella myself it shows how racism and discrimination were being believed to be ok since it fell under social Darwinism. Joseph Conrad was trying to show how much that is hurting people and society.

5. I would like to continue to explore more of Van Goghs work. I've always liked his work and would love to see more of his work because of his use of color and how he creates real life scenes but not in the typical way. You can tell what his artwork is, but it doesn't look like an exact picture of a scene. The historical significance is his works highlights the post-impressionist techniques. I believe the piece that represents his work the most is *Starry Night* which is also my favorite piece. Another one of my favorites is *The Almond Blossom*.

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Mckensie Mclaughlin (<https://valenciacollege.instructure.com/courses/222371/users/508090>)



Jan 8 7:21pm | Last reply Jan 19 10:49am

Post-impressionist artists, particularly Vincent Van Gogh, transformed the art world with his focus on emotional depth, composition, and symbolic meaning. He aimed to express deeply personal emotions through his work. His vibrant use of contrasting hues creates artworks that pulsate with energy, allowing viewers to feel the profound sentiments embedded within them. An example of this is "Starry Night." The swirling sky, showing dynamic blues and yellows, gives an effect of a mystical ambiance that breathes life and movement into the night.

The impact of Symbolism on modern art cannot be overstated. It compelled artists to explore the realms of spirituality and emotion. Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophical insights further grew this movement, enhancing individual creativity and the notion of self-overcoming. Nietzsche's challenge to established values inspired modern artists to break free from conventions and explore innovative forms of expression.

One of the quintessential manifestations of this influence is Munch's iconic painting "The Scream." This powerful artwork captures the anxiety and turmoil of the modern experience, mirroring the overwhelming feelings brought forth by rapid industrialization and social change. Munch's masterful execution reveals inner complexity and resonates endlessly with the human condition, combining its status as a timeless reflection of our shared experiences.

Social Darwinism significantly applies Charles Darwin's principles of natural selection and the concept of "survival of the fittest" within human society. This theory sets forth that individuals and groups must compete for survival and success, species in the natural world. Social Darwinism has undeniably shaped discourse around social policies, ethics, and social hierarchies during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, illustrating the profound implications of Darwin's ideas on contemporary thought.

The artist I chose from this section is Edvard Munch. He is a Norwegian painter whose work had a profound impact on the development of modern art. He is a pivotal figure in the transition from symbolism to modernism and a major artist of the early 20th century. The Scream painting is one of his most famous pieces. He uses flowing patterns and colors, such as yellows, oranges, blues, and greens, for the sky and uses odd shapes and paint strokes for the flowing effect of the sky and face with the emotion of screaming or shock. The reason I chose this artwork is not because it's famous, it's because of the emotion you see from it. The story behind the scream or terror the face shows. The bright colors at first then getting into the darker colors and gloomy face.

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