Gallery Rebels

Realism (1850s)

In this movement, artists painted images of everyday life, showing images of peasants and working-class people. The style of the paintings was incredibly detailed and looked almost like a photograph. Some leading artists of this movement included Gustave Courbet, Édouard Manet and Jean-François Millet.



The Gleaners by Jean-François Millet, 1857

Impressionism (1860s)

Impressionism began in France and aimed to capture an impression of a place or time. Impressionist artists worked outside so they could capture the natural light and paint the feelings or mood of a particular moment. They also used small, visible brush strokes to recreate dappled patterns of light. Key artists of this period included Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Pierre-Auguste Renoir.



La Grenouillère by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1869

Expressionism (1900s)

Expressionist artists tried to express their feelings and emotions through their paintings, rather than create a realistic image of a person or object. They used thick paint, strong outlines, loose brush strokes and bold colours to create simple, yet striking, pieces of art. Expressionist artists included Franz Marc, Wassily Kandinsky and Edvard Munch.



Murnau. A Village Street by Wassily Kandinsky, 1908

Cubism (1910s)

Cubism was a revolutionary style of painting that represented objects, landscapes and people as geometric shapes. Artists painted these shapes at different angles, creating images that appeared disjointed and abstract. This enabled artists to show different viewpoints at the same time. Cubism was championed by artists including Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger and Robert Delaunay.



Girl with Mandolin by Pablo Picasso 1910

Surrealism (1920s)



Celebes by Max Ernst, 1921

Surrealist artists used their imagination and dreams to inspire their art. Many also used a technique called automatic drawing, where they allowed their hand to draw randomly to unlock ideas from their subconscious mind. They painted with detail and precision, and their artwork contained surprising and unexpected objects and images. Surrealist artists included Leonora Carrington, Max Ernst and Salvador Dalí.

Pop art (1960s)

Pop art was a movement that used films, advertising, packaging, pop music and comics as inspiration. Bold, brash colours, shapes and photographs were used to create images. It was a revolutionary style that modernised art. Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and David Hockney are well-known artists from this movement.



Marilyn Diptych by Andy Warhol, 1962

Art gallery openings timeline

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1764	State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg	One of the world's largest collections of paintings.	
1765	Uffizi Gallery, Florence	Paintings from the 14th century and Renaissance period.	
1771	Vatican Museums, Vatican City	Artwork collected by Popes through the centuries.	
1792	Louvre Museum, Paris	Artwork from ancient civilisations to 1848.	
1819	Prado Museum, Madrid	European artwork from the 12th century to the early 20th century.	
1872	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	Over two million pieces of art from all over the world.	
1885	Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam	Dutch art and history from the Middle Ages to the present day.	
1959	Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York	Modern and contemporary art including Cubist art from Pablo Picasso, Fernand Lége and Robert Delaunay.	
1983	Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles	7000 pieces of artwork created after 1940.	
2000	Tate Modern, London	Modern and contemporary artwork by artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and David Hockney.	

Painting techniques

Painting can be traced back to prehistoric times and is a popular choice for artists across the world. There are many types of painting mediums including oil, acrylic and watercolour, and the effect can be created digitally on a computer. Artists choose the type of paint to create a particular style or texture. They may have to use special types of brushes, paper or canvas and other materials, such as drying oils, to create different types of paintings.

The colour wheel

The colour wheel was designed by Sir Isaac Newton in 1666. The secondary and tertiary colours are made from the three primary pigments of red, yellow and blue. The wheel shows the relationship between the primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours.



Glossary

acrylic paint	A fast-drying, water-based paint that
	becomes water-resistant when dry.
artists	People who create artwork.
complementary colours	Pairs of colours on opposite sides of the colour wheel that contrast with each other and make each other seem brighter.
composition	The placement of elements in a work of art.
curator	A specialist who works in an art gallery or museum.
oil paint	A slow-drying, oil-based paint.
pigment	A substance that gives colour to other materials.
primary colours	The colours red, yellow and blue.
secondary colours	The colours purple, orange and green, which are made by mixing two primary colours.
tertiary colours	The colours red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, blue-violet and red-violet, which are made by combining primary and secondary colours.
watercolour paint	A water-based paint that produces transparent colour.