

Section 1

A Quick Overview Of Key Artistic Movements



A quick overview of key artistic movements



NEOCLASSICISM

Neoclassicism or Neo-classical art both refer to the widely popular and influential movement that started in the 1760s and lasted til the 1850s. The development of paintings, sculptures, literature, music and architecture is strong and became influential towards later art periods. It became dominant in Europe coinciding with the Age of Enlightenment.

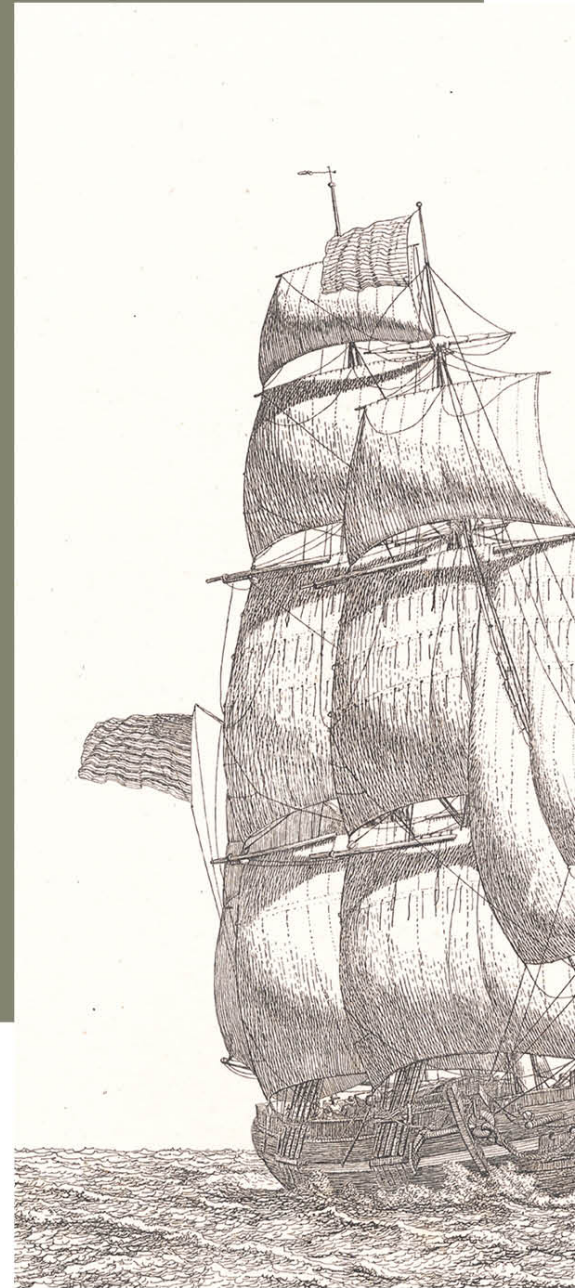
Before Neo-classicism, the sensuous

overly decorative style of Rococo art oversees the art world. This partly influenced Neo-classicism to be less decorative and more concerned with ideas of harmony, clarity, and universality. These are also the bases of Greek and Roman antiquity, which was the new scientific interest that arose in the 18th century. The rediscovery of ancient cities such as Pompeii and Herculaneum also played a role in the development of

the genre.

The style emphasises simplified and restrained ideas such as straight lines and fewer curves, direct and closed composition rather than those with depth, and the concern of the general whole and not the individual. This results in sculptures of clean-cut contours inspired by Greek and Roman antiques discovered through archaeological investigation. The architecture was also inspired by the same reason as ancient cities came to light again. As for paintings, artists mainly drew parallels with these ancient cultures through subject matters of stoic virtue. Many describe the layout, colours and line work as a stripped-down version of Rococo paintings, meaning it is cleaner and less decorative.

Neo-classical paintings were calmer at the start with works by artists such as Benjamin West and Raphael Mengs borrowing subject matters, poses and composition from their predecessors. As the French Revolution arise, artists such as Jacques-Louis David and Jean-François-Pierre Peyron made narrative paintings commenting on the struggles of the time.



ROMANTICISM

The Romanticism period started in Europe at the end of the 18th century and dominated the western world throughout most of the 19th century. As the name suggests, the arts

of the Romantic period focuses on the expression of emotions and individualism rather than logical thoughts. It is a reply to a society becoming more industrialized and dependent on scientific discoveries.

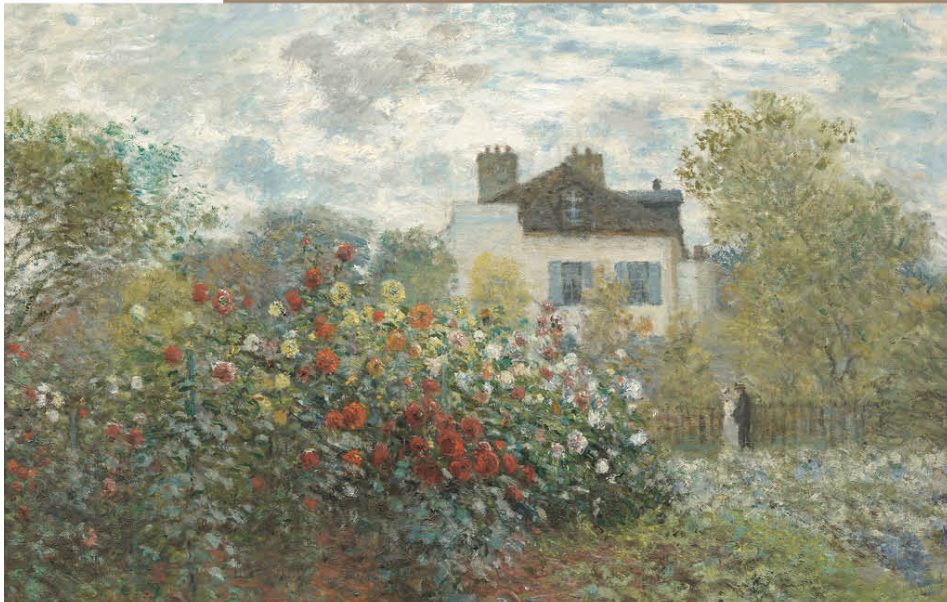
Before the Romantic period, western society has gone through the Age of Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. The world became a more rationalized, calmly and orderly place. It triggered those with vision and individuality, which were bound to start their own revolution. Romanticism emphasises the appreciation of the natural environment, the deepened understanding of personalities and the search for spiritual meaning within.



Paintings are made with great contrast in lighting, and dramatic happenings of events with main characters that are either bizarre or heroic, so as to differentiate themselves from the previous generations. The results are scenes of emotional outbursts through the character's facial expressions and actions that bring movement into the artwork as if it is a movie still.

By continuing to show interest in the less fortunate and creating a scene of turbulence, Theodore Gericault impacted the French art

world with his larger-than-life-size depiction of the French shipwreck aftermath, "The Raft of the Medusa". English artist John Constable fought against the strict styles established within Neoclassical art through his landscape paintings that focuses only on the actual beauty he sees within nature. Poet and artist William Blake created art that drew inspiration from literature and provoked the church by reimagining mythical characters. Just by naming a few artists from the period, it is easy to see the broad subject matters and impacts that Romanticism has made, not only in the art world but society in general.



IMPRESSIONISM

The name Impressionism, derived from one of the works of its most predominant artists, Claude Monet, was popular during the period of the 19th century, till 1886. Paintings of this style put an emphasis on day-to-day life, unusual angles, and an accurate depiction of lighting and human activity as time proceeds.

Started in France by a group of Paris-based artists, Impressionism is yet another style of controversy. Before this art period, still-life and landscape paintings are made indoors, but the Impressionists decide to try a new technique called en plein air, meaning to paint outdoors. This way, they are experiencing the environment 'live', resulting in the capturing of changing lights and human movements. This is so new that it was disapproved by art critics and the general public; it just wasn't the way of the art establishment. Many artists of this genre were outcasts of the art academia.

Compared to indoor painting, outdoor painting is met with challenges, which helped adopt the approaches that now define the style. As artists see the light changes, they recorded it on the same static canvas. They also stop blending brushstrokes; forming lines of textures and creating a softer edge. The layout was also loosened; making it less set up and more natural. Every technique developed means the style becomes less detailed and more of a recording of a moment in life.

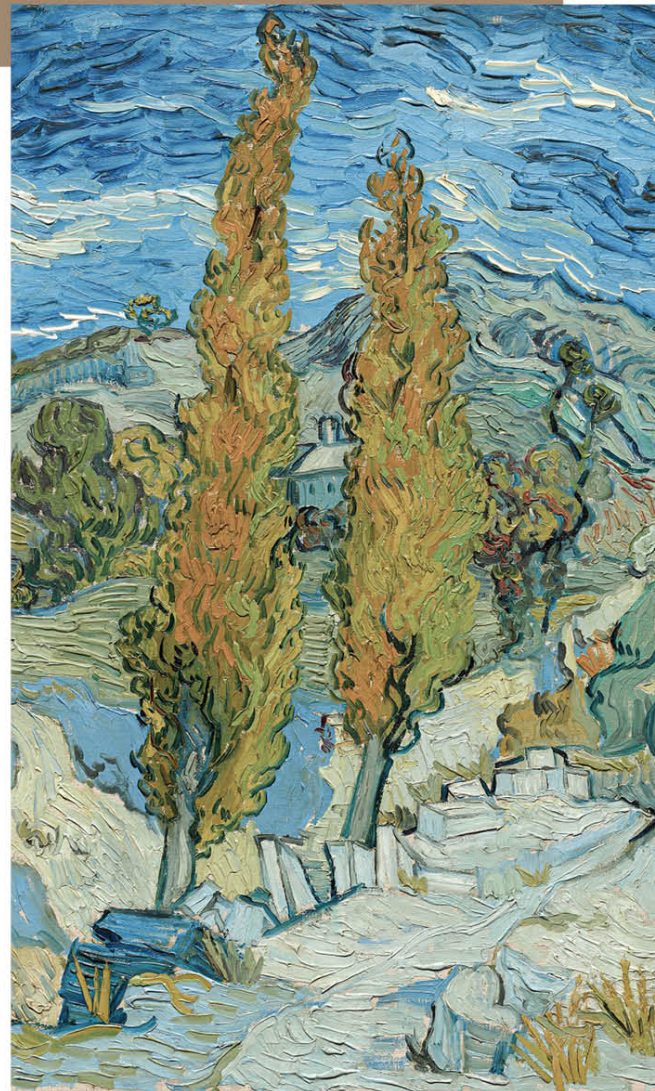
The Impressionists' keen observing skills make them the photographers of their times, they study their environment as it changes and documents their findings within their paintings. Take Claude Monet as an example, he painted approximately 250 oil paintings of the lily pond. Edgar Degas made 1,500 paintings, monotypes and drawings of ballet dancers in his lifetime.

POST-IMPRESSIONIST

Following the Impressionism period, the Post-impressionist period started in 1886 and ended in 1905. As Impressionists rebelled against the art establishment, its successors also find them too restrained. Post-impressionists disagree with the true depiction of natural light and colour, they hope to broaden their spectrum through the use of colours as a symbolic gesture. This means that art took an even more abstract turn.

Post-impressionism has a very contemporary characteristic, the term is an umbrella term for many styles made within the period. This includes the meticulously made paintings of Pointillism, where a scientific approach of applying dots onto the canvas was used. The bright colours and wild brushstrokes of Fauvism were also included within this genre. Symbolism, drawing inspiration from the Romantic period, uses mythical and dream imageries to get the message across.

As much as Paul Cézanne was influenced by Romanticism and Realism, he broke from established ideals and created paintings with planes of colours and tiny brushstrokes to form complex layouts. Georges Seurat depicted human activities in outdoor settings like an Impressionist, but he further his abstraction of the human form and along with a new



painting style, Pointillism, he applied paint in a dot-by-dot manner. Last but not least, Vincent Van Gogh's abstract planes, expressive brushstrokes and vivid colours make every painting of his a texture paradise. By only naming a few names, it is obvious that artists of this period do not agree on one style, but they all experimented with being less real, and more abstract in a harmonious and structured way.

Section 2

Interior Design Styles

7 Most Popular Interior Design Styles

Colour Palette

Our Picks



Interior Design Styles

FARMHOUSE

If you are a person who enjoys the practicality and simplicity of countryside life, the country/farmhouse style is for you. Bring the household together with lots of natural light, worn surfaces and furnishing with simple lines and forms. To top it off, a cotton sofa with plain floral patterns, a simple wooden stool and a knitted blanket can most certainly boost the style up a notch. Remember to add a few wall art from our people/portrait and still life categories to give the room a focus.

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RUSTIC

Rustic is as if smelling worn down metal, chopped wood and weathered leather with your eyes. When creating a rustic house decor style, it is important to bring a bit of the forest indoors. It would be wise to include elements of wood, metal and stones within the decorating. Vintage furniture will also look perfect with this style. Paintings and photos from our farmhouse/countryside or still life category will match perfectly with the rustic household.



BOHEMIAN

Let out your free-spirited side with the Bohemian decor style. The style speaks well-travelled, chill and spiritual; exotic patterned pillows with a vintage-shop-bought side table on a rug to welcome floor-sitters will definitely be a great match. Don't forget to have a variation of paintings from our coastal/ beach, people/portrait and/or still life categories to make the room a colourful combination of discoveries for your guests.



COASTAL

Think summer sun, sandy beaches and wavy oceans, the coastal style is exactly that, but only indoors. When you want to bring the sea shores back home, warm colours such as orange and yellow, complemented with the blue and greens of the ocean water will work just great.

Have furniture that spells relaxation such as soft comfy sofas, set furniture apart to create space and top it off with a painting from our coastal/beach and people/portrait categories.



You end up with a home filled with warm sea breezes.



SHABBY CHIC



If you are into vintage decor but are not keen to define yourself into one period, choose Shabby Chic. It is a mix-and-match of antique furniture styles with a wear-and-tear look to bring it all together.

Colour wise, stick to the worn-down colour palette of pastels. When it comes to Shabby Chic, any type of paintings from the categories will be a great match, as long as you stick with a colour palette that matches the rest of the room. This decor style is definitely a fun go-to for the brave and adventurous explorers of vintage designs.

TRADITIONAL / TRANSITIONAL

No matter if you love a Persian rug or a Victorian lamp, it is always nice to mix and match it with some contemporary lighting or an oversized sofa with modernised fabric.

The traditional style is great for spacious rooms, just remember to keep colours simple and sizes similar. The people/portrait and still life category of paintings will definitely bring the room together.



“The people/portrait and **still life** category of paintings will definitely bring the room together.”

ART DECO



Fly yourself back to the 1920s and become part of the Great Gatsby gang. Be glamorous, be luxurious, and be orderly with symmetrical designs and geometric shapes! Colour-wise, the rich gold and silver with toned-down colours of green, blue and beige definitely speak art deco. Large consoles and sideboards, huge armchairs with a hint of animal print here and there are the art deco furniture go-to. Paintings from the people/ portrait, still life and cityscape categories are the best-fitted wall art for this style.

Color Palette & Our Picks



ART DECO



TRADITIONAL

