Art History

# Cave painting (about 15,000 to 13,000 f. BC)

• It's the world´s oldest art.

•        The most famous caves are Lascaux in southern France and Altamira in northern Spain.

•        It is believed that they were painted to bring good luck when hunting motifs consists of animals like horse, bison and more. When the paintings done its painted over with the new design.

•        They mixed their own colors using grease, earth (ocher), blood, urine, they painted with their fingers, chewed sticks or spray painted using her mouth.

# Rock carvings (7000 f. BC)

•        Symbols and figures carved on rocks or cliffs. Most are filled with red paint (ocher).

•       Common Nordic motifs are hunting scenes, animals (reindeer, elk, fish) and boats.

# Egypt (about 2500 to 1000 B.C.)

•        Paintings done on walls, papyrus and wood. There are few paintings kept today. Those who survived are those found in the burial chambers.

•        The Egyptians made ​​use of something called a value perspective, where the richest and most powerful persons was painted largest. Slaves and servants were painted very small.

•      The subjects were mostly rich people and gods. Men painted with darker skin color than women. Wealthy women did not work but stayed at home with the family and therefore painted with lighter skin because they did not have to stay out in the sun. The man who was the head of the family often had arrends outside the home out in the sun, resulting that he got a darker skin tone. It was a sign of wealth if a man had a wife with paler skin.
• People who were depicted in tomb chambers was pictured always in a special way because it was so closely linked to religion and the culture of death. The head painted in profile, shoulders straight forward while the hips and legs from the side. This was to show off the most typical features so the gods would know what and who were depicted so they would come to “heaven”. Slaves and servants was often painted more freely because they were not considered as important.

# Renässansen (about 1420-1530 A.C)

•        Renaissance people had classical antiquity (Greece) as a model. The word renaissance means rebirth, and in this case the rebirth of antic Greece.

• Common themes were mythological creatures, like from the Greek and Roman mythology, but also biblical motivs was still very common.

•        The paintings are full of details. In the early Renaissance were symbols very common.

•        The most famous artists during this time was Botticelli, Jan van Eyck, Michelangelo (painter and sculptor) and Leonardo da Vinci (painter, inventor, architect, sculptor, etc.).

# Japanese woodcuts (1600-1800 )

•        The West used perspectival tricks and shading to create depth when they painted. But in the 1800's they accepted that the canvas was two dimensional. They got the inspiration from countries such as Japan.

•       They did not use perspectival tricks but worked more with overlaps to create depth. They made ​​ most everyday subjects, landscapes, people and animals.

•        The motifs were cut out of wood and then printed in several numbers. Since the motifs are cut and printed, the have clear contours, like in today's comics. Regard patterns as on clothes they would not follow the bodyforms but is more flat on. This technique can you still see in today's manga series.

# Impressionism (arose in the 1870s)

 •        It was a dark period in the society after the war and the industrial revolution. So the impressionists choose to only paint beauty. Motivs like the french landscape and people enjoying them self at the opera, balett, drinking and dining. They wanted to paint the people who lived the good life, everything else they refused to paint.

•        They took inspiration from the camera and wanted to capture the moment. That ment that they had to start to paint pretty fast to catch the light, shadows and the subject. Typical of Impressionism is the pure colors and blurry, mottled painted motifs.

•        For the first time artists moved out of their studios and painted outdoors instead.

• They could often paint the long series of the same scene at different times and days of the year, to see the differences in the weather and the light effected the motive.

•        The word impressionism itself means impression. You should paint what you see in this moment.

•        Famous artists were Monet and Renoir.

# Expressionism (late 1800s to mid-1900s)

•        The word Expressionism means expression. It was not important to paint realistically, they would paint their feelings and then it did nothing that reality got distorted. (Think Edvard Munchs painting Scream).

•        Here they dared to exaggerate more with colors and brush strokes. One could often apply different colors in thick layers and wanted brush strokes to get noticed and create patterns.

•       It was important that you would have an experience when you saw the pictures. It could be love, anguish, death, fear and more. They would paint life. Both that which was good and bad , people who was happy and people who suffered.

•        Famous artists were Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch

#  Naive art (about 1910)

•        Poetic and naive images depicting an exotic dream world. Often very detailed paintings. It did not bother them if perspective or proportions were right . The main thing was that the painting had something to tell, anything happening in the picture. One can see many similarities with naive pictures and children's book illustrations .

•        Naive Art: uneducated people who can not express themselves differently.

•       To paint naivistiskt: educated people who have chosen this style.

•        Famous artists were Rousseau and Marc Chagall.

# Cubism (beginning of the 1900s)

•        They simplified the motives to geometric forms.

•        They used several different perspectives on a single image. If they painted a still life, you would paint it from the top, side and straight on at the same time.

•        To paint the shapes was more important than the motif. Therefore, a portrait in cubist look so very strange when ears, nose, mouth is in the wrong place and in different angles.

•        Picasso was one of the founders of Cubism.

# Surrealism (arose about 1920)

•        They wanted to paint the subconscious, hallucinations or dreams. A distorted view of reality , that may arise from the mental illness or under the influence of drugs

•       The motifs are usually full of symbolism. As an example of Dali's paintings / sculptures where he uses a lot out of crutches / braces to hold up parts of the motives, that means that we all at some point in life need support and help.

•        The images are usually realistically painted, but unreal in its content. They put together things that do not fit together such a burning giraffe, a pair of shoes that turn into toes.

•       Famous artists were Salvador Dali, René Magritte, Frida Kahlo and the Swedish Halmstad Gruppen.

# Optical Art (1960th)

•   The experience was most important. Since the optical artworks create optical effect it meant that everyone with functioning vision could have an experience when they saw the pictures.

The idea behind was that art should be for everyone and not only educated people or people of a higher class of society. All could have an experience of these paintings regardless of class or status.

•      The first works were black and white, but then the style developed to include more strong and bright colors.

•        Famous artists was Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley.

# Popart (1950s)

•   Emerged as an opponent of the traditional and abstract paintings.

•   During the 1950th , it became common that people could afford to buy televisions. With it came the television celebrities, actors , musicians , TV advertising. Popartists took inspiration from this.

They saw beauty in everydayobjects. So that everyone else also would see the beauty they changed them. Something hard got soft, something large got small and so on. That meant that we suddenly got up our eyes to the beauty in the everyday objects we have around us. Which meant that costs were lower so that "ordinary" people could afford to buy art.

•        The art became commercially and mass produced eg poster.

•        They worked with mixed techniques, such as collage, prints, paintings, sculpture and more.

•       Famous artists Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg, Andy Warhol

#  Graffiti (1960s)

•        The style began with teens who started to write his initials in train stations and subways with black markers/pens.

•       Trains and buses are the most popular "exhibition halls" because there were many people who saw them done. That Graffiti is public is because they want to show their opinions and feelings and want to influence people and society.

•        Graffiti usually consist of text and image.

•        There are different ways to paint on. Stencils, brush, spraycans, markers/pens.

•        Spray Art is more well-worked artwork. Nothing that has been done in five minutes.

•        Famous artists; Keith Haring and Banksy