

The Illinois State
Museum
presents

Marvelous Modern Art

Super Saturday
January 10, 2009

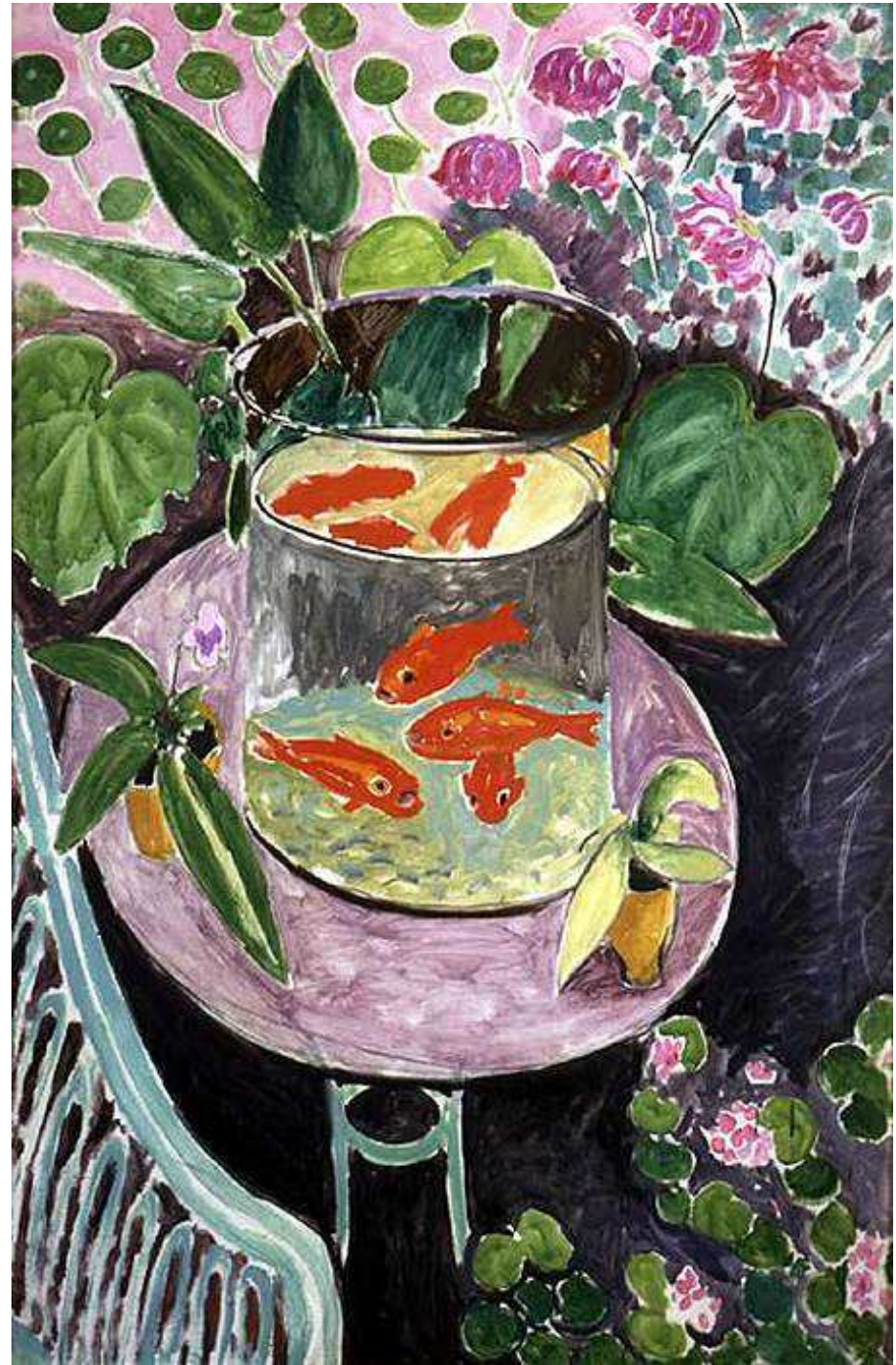


Henri Matisse's Goldfish (1912)

Although Henri Matisse was a French artist, he was still very important and influential to American twentieth-century art. Matisse was a **modern** artist, and he not only painted, but sculpted and cut out pieces of paper to create images, scenes, and settings.

His "Goldfish" painting from 1912 has a lot of different texture and objects, including the different plants, flowers, and the glass bowl.

Henri Matisse was born on December 31, 1869 and died in 1954 at 84. He was heavily influenced by Postimpressionism, and considered the use of bright color the most important part of painting.



Jackson Pollock

Jackson Pollock was an American artist of the **Abstract Expressionist** movement. His technique of pouring and dripping paint marked the beginning of **action painting**. He actually moved the canvas from the easel to the floor, so he could drip paint from all angles of the surface! Pollock's most famous paintings are from his "drip period," which lasted from 1947 to 1950.

Pollock once said, "My painting does not come from the easel. I prefer to tack the unstretched canvas to the hard wall or the floor. I need the resistance of a hard surface. On the floor I am more at ease. I feel nearer, more part of the painting, since this way I can walk around it, work from the four sides and literally be *in* the painting."



Above (printed sideways): Jackson Pollock, *Lavender Mist*, 1950, oil on canvas, Washington, DC, National Gallery of Art.

Philip Guston's Still Life Self-Portraits

Philip Guston was a painter in the **Abstract Expressionist** period, like his friend Jackson Pollock. Many of his later works, like these two images here, were still life paintings of objects that represented his likes and interests.

Looking at these images here, can you tell what some of the pictures are? What do you think they mean to Philip Guston? Why do you think he would choose these objects as part of his still life self-portrait than other objects?

In your picture, how did you choose what images to draw? What made you decide what to include about yourself, and what did you leave out that could you draw next time?



Above: Philip Guston, detail, *Painter's Table*, 1983, oil on canvas, Washington, DC, National Gallery of Art.

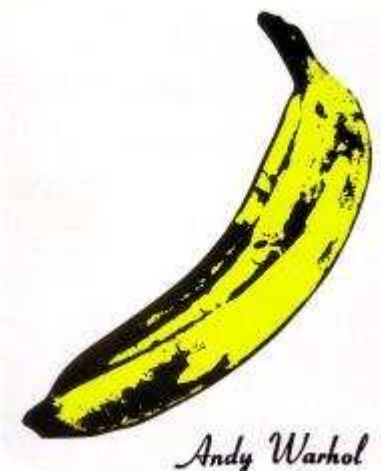
Andy Warhol's Factory



Andy Warhol is one of America's most famous artists. He marked the beginning of the Pop Art movement by creating images and portraits of everyday objects and well-known celebrities. His use of common objects and icons, all deriving from **popular culture**, inspired the term Pop Art. Other Pop artists include Roy Lichtenstein and Wayne Theibold.

"The Factory" was Andy Warhol's studio he used from 1962 to 1968 in New York City. There, Warhol would create his silkscreen paintings of flowers, celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, and iconic American objects, from Campbell's soup to Coca-Cola bottles to Brillo soap pads.

There are a lot of books written about Andy Warhol. "Uncle Andy's" by James Warhola (Andy's nephew) is a wonderful children's book about visiting all the 'art' in Andy's house in New York City. More books about Warhol and Pop Art in general can be found at your local library!



Picasso's Portraits

Pablo Picasso was a very famous painter in the early 1900s. His portraits are abstract because they portray different views of the one object on the same painting space. These portraits might look strange, but they are just different views, or facets, of the same person rearranged in the composition.

This style of painting is called **cubism**, and is marked by the artist's ability to present an object or person in a variety of viewpoints on one single image. Other Cubist artists include George Braques and Juan Gris.

Right, above: Pablo Picasso, detail, *Seated Woman with Wrist Watch*, 1932, oil on canvas, New York.

Right, below: Picasso, *Bust of a Woman with a Hat*, 1939, oil on canvas.



Sol LeWitt



Sol LeWitt was an American artist associated with many art movements of the twentieth century, including **Conceptual Art** and **Minimalism**. His work "Wall Painting No. 681C" was not painted on a canvas, nor was it painted by LeWitt himself; rather, he gave color-coded instructions to his assistants that painted the work onto the wall inside the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

LeWitt was born in 1928 and recently died in April 2007. He was a painter, but also performed large drawings and sculpted towers, pyramids, and other structures.

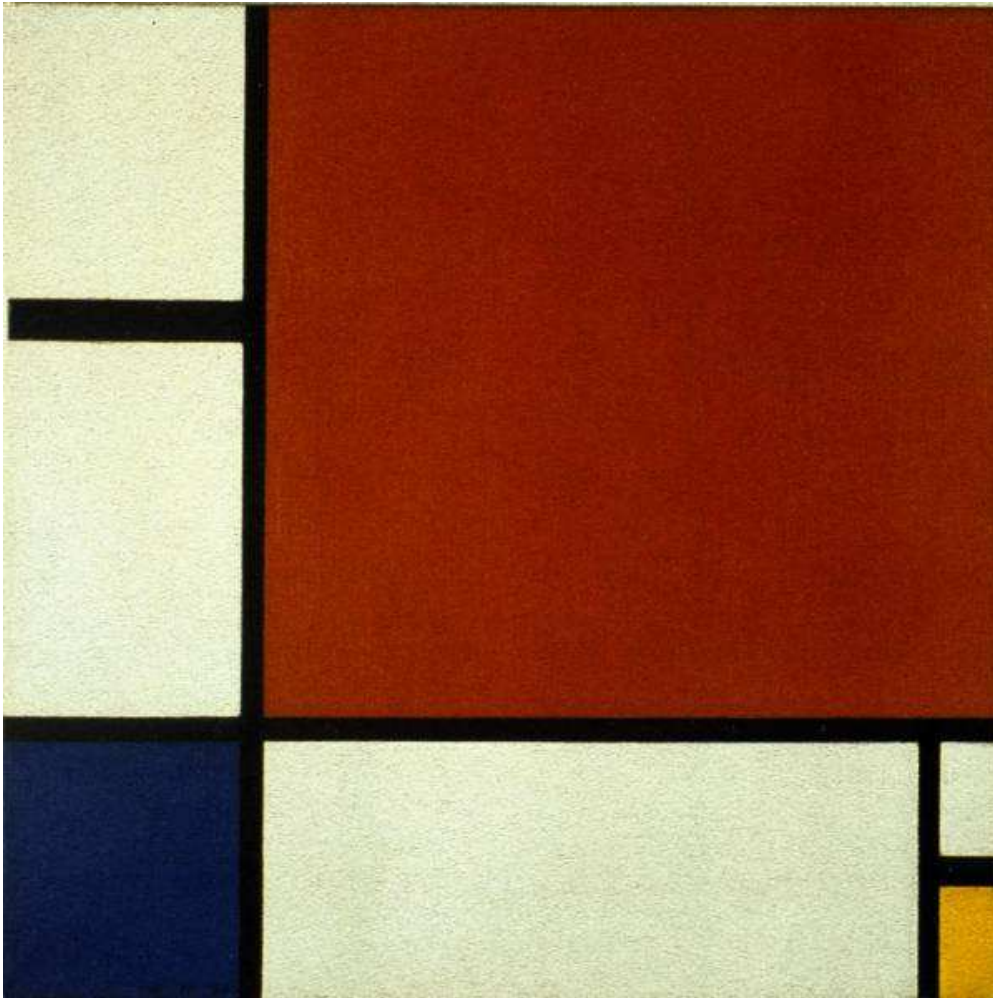


Left: One of LeWitt's wall drawings, *Isometric Projection #13*.

Below: LeWitt's *Tower* at the Figge Art Museum in Iowa.



Piet Mondrian

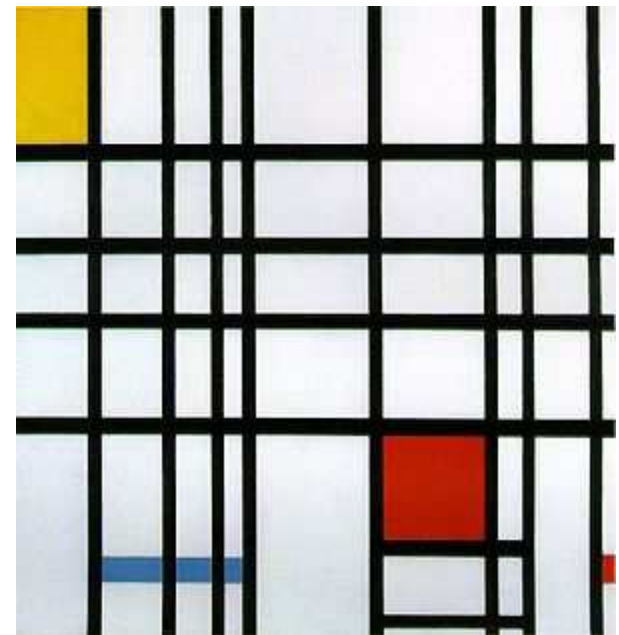


Above: Piet Mondrian, *Composition II in Red, Yellow, and Blue*, 1930, oil on canvas.



Piet Mondrian was a very important twentieth-century Dutch painter. Born in the Netherlands in 1872, he moved to Paris in 1912 to further his painting. He is known for his com-

positions of thick black lines, separating white squares from bright blocks of the three primary colors: red, blue, and yellow. After Paris, he moved to London, and then New York City, where he lived until his death in 1944.



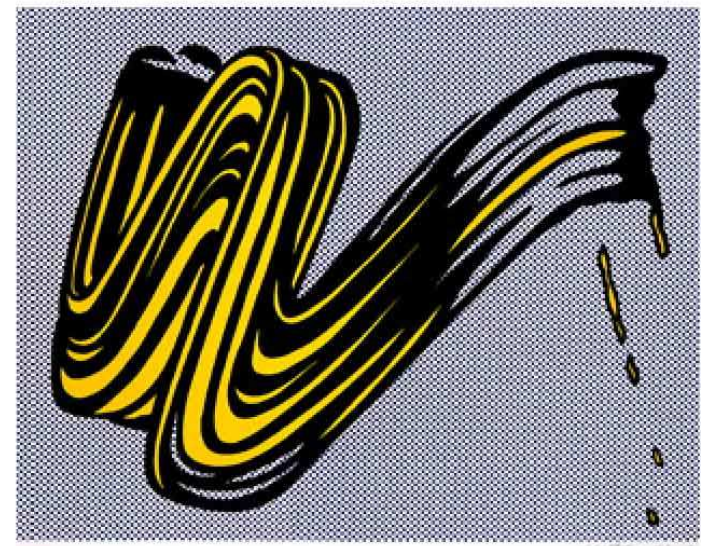
Roy Lichtenstein

Roy Lichtenstein was a prominent American Pop artist. His work was heavily influenced by popular advertisements and comic book cartoons. Born in 1923 in New York, Lichtenstein went to public schools and proceeded to graduate from the Ohio State University with a degree in fine art. His first work to include the comic book dots (called **Benday dots**—similar to **Pointillism** and colors an image by using a variety of different-sized dots) was “Look Mickey” (right), located at the National Gallery.

Lichtenstein’s work continues to influence American art, and is certainly one of the most important Pop artists of all time. Although a famous painter, Lichtenstein also created three-dimensional structures of his works.



Above: Lichtenstein, *Look Mickey*, 1961, oil on canvas.
Below: *Brushstroke*, 1965, oil on canvas.





Super Saturday is the second Saturday of every month in the Illinois State Museum's children's learning gallery, *A Place for Discovery*.

Super Saturdays offer free, thematic activities and crafts. To see the entire lineup of Super Saturday themes, please visit our website at <http://www.museum.state.il.us>.

For more information about *A Place for Discovery* or Super Saturdays, please contact the Education Section at (217) 782-6044.

The Illinois State Museum is located at the intersection of Spring & Edwards Streets, on the Capitol Complex in Springfield.

*Of course, these are not the only modern artists out there! Explore more art & artists of all styles at your local library!