

Modern Art: Historical Foundations and Pivotal Movements

Modern Art · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which art exhibition in 1913, held in New York City, is widely considered a watershed moment for introducing European avant-garde art to the American public and influencing subsequent artistic developments?

- A) The Armory Show
- B) The Salon des Indépendants
- C) The International Exhibition of Modern Art
- D) The Paris Salon

2. The concept of 'action painting,' characterized by the physical application of paint in broad strokes and gestures, is most famously associated with which artist and movement?

- A) Jackson Pollock, Abstract Expressionism
- B) Wassily Kandinsky, Expressionism
- C) Piet Mondrian, De Stijl
- D) Salvador Dalí, Surrealism

3. What groundbreaking 1907 painting by Pablo Picasso is considered a seminal work in the development of Cubism, breaking away from traditional representation by depicting figures from multiple viewpoints simultaneously?

- A) Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.)
- B) Guernica
- C) The Persistence of Memory
- D) The Starry Night

4. The Futurist movement, originating in Italy, celebrated dynamism, speed, technology, and the machine age. Which of the following was a key manifesto published by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti in 1909?

- A) The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism
- B) What is Art?
- C) The Manifesto of the Surrealists
- D) The Art of the Future

5. Dadaism, a reaction to the horrors of World War I, emerged in Zurich and other cities, characterized by its anti-art, anti-rational, and often absurd nature. Which artist is credited with coining the term 'Dada' in 1916?

- A) Tristan Tzara
- B) Marcel Duchamp
- C) Hugo Ball
- D) Man Ray

6. Constructivism, a post-revolutionary art movement that originated in Russia, emphasized geometric abstraction and the use of industrial materials. Which artist is considered a leading figure, known for his 'Spatial Constructions'?

- A) Naum Gabo
- B) Kazimir Malevich
- C) El Lissitzky
- D) Vladimir Tatlin

7. The Bauhaus school, founded in Germany in 1919, was a highly influential design and art school that sought to unify art, craft, and technology. Who was its first director?

- A) Walter Gropius
- B) Mies van der Rohe
- C) Hannes Meyer
- D) László Moholy-Nagy

8. What was the primary objective of the De Stijl movement, founded in the Netherlands in 1917, as exemplified by artists like Piet Mondrian and Theo van Doesburg?

- A) To achieve pure abstraction and universal harmony through the use of basic geometric forms and primary colors
- B) To explore the subconscious and dreams through irrational juxtapositions
- C) To depict the dynamism and speed of modern life with fragmented forms
- D) To celebrate the spiritual and emotional expression through vibrant, non-representational colors

9. Surrealism, heavily influenced by the psychoanalytic theories of Sigmund Freud, sought to unlock the creative potential of the unconscious mind. André Breton published the first 'Surrealist Manifesto' in which year?

- A) 1924
- B) 1919
- C) 1929
- D) 1936

10. The International Style, a dominant architectural movement that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, is characterized by its emphasis on sleek geometric forms, minimalist aesthetics, and the use of modern materials like steel and glass. Which of the following is NOT a key principle of the International Style?

- A) Ornamentation and embellishment
- B) Rectilinear forms
- C) Use of glass and steel
- D) Lack of applied decoration

11. Color Field painting, a subset of Abstract Expressionism, is known for its large areas of flat, solid color applied to the canvas. Which artist is considered a pioneer of this style, with works like 'Vir Heroicus Sublimis'?

- A) Clyfford Still
- B) Mark Rothko
- C) Barnett Newman
- D) Helen Frankenthaler

12. Which artist, a key figure in Fauvism, famously used bold, non-naturalistic colors and expressive brushwork to convey emotion, and is known for his vibrant depictions of landscapes and portraits?

- A) Henri Matisse
- B) André Derain
- C) Maurice de Vlaminck
- D) Raoul Dufy

13. The term 'art for art's sake,' advocating for art's autonomy from moral, political, or didactic purposes, gained prominence during which period and influenced many Modern Art movements?

- A) Late 19th Century (Aestheticism)
- B) Early 20th Century (Futurism)
- C) Mid-19th Century (Realism)
- D) Late 18th Century (Neoclassicism)

14. Which influential art critic and historian is credited with coining the term 'action painting' in his 1952 essay 'The New American Painting'?

- A) Harold Rosenberg
- B) Clement Greenberg
- C) John Berger
- D) Robert Hughes

15. The impact of African and Oceanic art on early Modernist painters, particularly on the simplification of form and the use of expressive distortion, is most evident in the works of which artist, exemplified by 'Les Demoiselles d'Avignon'?

- A) Pablo Picasso
- B) Henri Matisse
- C) Amedeo Modigliani
- D) Georges Braque