

Pioneers and Milestones of Modern Art

Modern Art · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which artist is credited with creating the first 'readymade' by exhibiting a bicycle wheel mounted on a wooden stool in 1913?

- A) Marcel Duchamp
- B) Man Ray
- C) Francis Picabia
- D) Salvador Dalí

2. What was the first art movement to utilize the 'papier collé' technique, pioneered by Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso in 1912?

- A) Futurism
- B) Synthetic Cubism
- C) Dadaism
- D) Surrealism

3. Which 1905 exhibition in Paris earned Henri Matisse and his peers the derogatory label 'Les Fauves' (The Wild Beasts)?

- A) Salon des Indépendants
- B) Salon d'Automne
- C) Exposition Universelle
- D) Galerie Vollard

4. In 1910, Wassily Kandinsky is widely considered to have produced what, which is recognized as one of the first purely non-objective, abstract watercolors?

- A) Composition VII
- B) Black Square
- C) First Abstract Watercolor
- D) Yellow-Red-Blue

5. Which technological device, introduced to fine art practice in 1839, served as a primary catalyst for artists to abandon strict representation in favor of Modernist abstraction?

- A) The kaleidoscope
- B) The camera obscura
- C) The daguerreotype
- D) The printing press

6. Who is credited with inventing the 'stable,' a stationary abstract sculpture, to contrast with Alexander Calder's 'mobiles'?

- A) Jean Arp
- B) Constantin Brâncusi
- C) Alexander Calder
- D) Naum Gabo

7. The term 'Surrealism' was first coined by Guillaume Apollinaire in 1917, but the movement was formally established in 1924 by the publication of whose manifesto?

- A) André Breton
- B) Max Ernst
- C) René Magritte
- D) Joan Miró

8. Which Russian Suprematist artist painted 'Black Square' (1915), marking a radical 'first' in minimalist, geometric abstraction?

- A) El Lissitzky
- B) Kazimir Malevich
- C) Lyubov Popova
- D) Varvara Stepanova

9. Which Italian Futurist manifesto author first advocated for the destruction of museums and libraries as a rejection of historical art traditions?

- A) Umberto Boccioni
- B) Filippo Tommaso Marinetti
- C) Giacomo Balla
- D) Gino Severini

10. The 'Blue Four' (Die Blaue Vier) group, which introduced modern European art to the United States in 1924, included Lyonel Feininger, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, and which other artist?

- A) Alexej von Jawlensky
- B) Franz Marc
- C) August Macke
- D) Gabriele Münter

11. Which 19th-century invention allowed Impressionists like Claude Monet to paint 'en plein air' by making pigments portable?

- A) Synthetic oil paints
- B) Collapsible tin paint tubes
- C) Acrylic resin
- D) Quick-drying binders

12. Which artist is recognized for creating the first 'Combine'--an artwork that incorporates both painting and three-dimensional found objects--in the mid-1950s?

- A) Jasper Johns
- B) Robert Rauschenberg
- C) Cy Twombly
- D) Allan Kaprow

13. What was the first major international exhibition of modern art held in the United States, which shocked the public in 1913?

- A) The Armory Show
- B) The Ashcan School Exhibition
- C) The Whitney Biennial
- D) The MoMA Inaugural

14. Which artist was the first to use neon tubing as a primary medium for fine art sculpture in the 1960s?

- A) Bruce Nauman
- B) Dan Flavin
- C) James Turrell
- D) Robert Irwin

15. In 1937, which German Nazi-organized exhibition was intended to ridicule and denounce modern art as 'degenerate'?

- A) Entartete Kunst
- B) Die Brücke
- C) Der Blaue Reiter
- D) Neue Sachlichkeit

16. Which artist is credited with inventing the 'automatic drawing' technique as a core practice of Surrealist expression?

- A) André Masson
- B) Salvador Dalí
- C) Yves Tanguy
- D) Leonora Carrington

17. What is considered the first 'environment' or 'happening,' staged by Allan Kaprow in 1959?

- A) 18 Happenings in 6 Parts
- B) Yard
- C) Words
- D) Gas

18. Which early 20th-century art style, led by Piet Mondrian, was the first to strictly limit its palette to primary colors and non-colors (black, white, grey)?

- A) De Stijl
- B) Constructivism
- C) Purism
- D) Vorticism