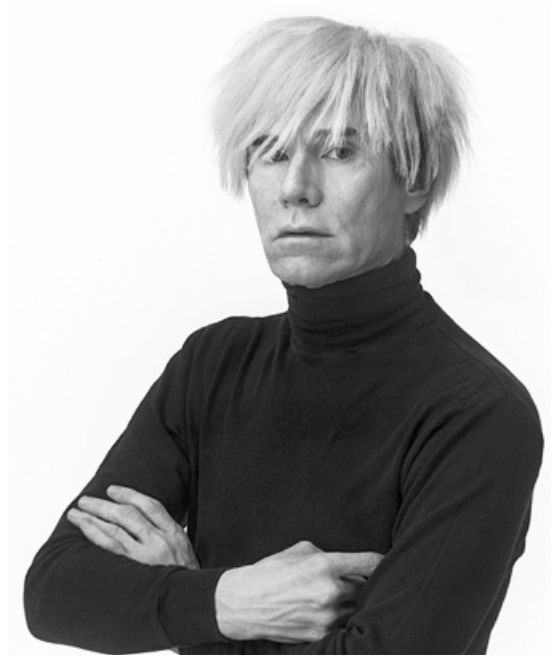


Web Unit: Pop Art

In this Web Unit you have the chance to learn about one of the major art movements of the 20th century: Pop Art. This movement has had a heavy influence on the direction of art in general, and the artists of Pop Art are still famous and admired today.



Andy Warhol, one of the most famous figures in Pop Art. Over the years, his trademark hairstyle became just as well-known as his artwork

1 Pre-internet discussion

- a) 1. What does 'pop' mean? Look up 'to pop' in your dictionary.
2. What could it have to do with an art movement?
- b) What do you know about Andy Warhol? (When did he live; what art works is he famous for?)

2 Internet activities

- a)  www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop-Art

1. Look at the first picture, which is a collage by Richard Hamilton from 1956 with the title Just What Is It that Makes Today's Homes So Different, So Appealing?
Write a list of the everyday objects you see in the collage.

2. Why do you think the artist chose so many things from everyday life for his collage? What is he trying to say?
3. After looking at the collage, which is considered to be one of the first examples of Pop Art, try to give a short definition of what Pop Art could mean and what it wants to express.

USEFUL PHRASES


- The artist is trying to say that ...
- The artist achieves his goals by showing ...
- The concept behind Pop Art is to show / express ...
- Works of Pop Art show / express ...
- Pop Art differs from other kinds of art by showing ...


b)  www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop-Art

Read through the first two paragraphs of the definition of Pop Art.

1. Make a list of words you do not understand. Look them up in a dictionary.
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2. Mediation: With the help of the two paragraphs, try to explain Pop Art in German.
3. Compare your definition above with the definition you find at Wikipedia. Where do you see parallels, where differences?

c) Now  the section 'In the United States' →  the picture of Roy Lichtenstein's Drowning Girl.

1. Describe the painting. What does it remind you of?
2. Analyze the painting with the help of the definition of Pop Art you read earlier. What is the artist trying to express?
3. Read through the section 'In the United States'. Take notes of the most important pieces of information. Prepare a one-minute talk about this paragraph in front of your class.
4.  the links to these three artists: • Jasper Johns • Robert Rauschenberg • Andy Warhol
 - a) Quickly read through the articles about them. Then choose the artist that interests you most.
 - b) Write notes about what kind of Pop Art your artist was best known for.
 - c) Choose the work of art you like most, or, the one which you feel represents the artist's ideas and style best. Make notes about how you would describe and analyze it.
 - d) Later, in class, discuss 'your' artist and the work of art you chose.

MORE USEFUL PHRASES

- If you look closely, you'll see that the painting / object / collage is ...
- I think it's easy to see that the artist is trying to ...
- This work of art represents / is a symbol for ...
- This work of art represents the artist's intentions / ideas best because ...

3 Post-internet activities**OPTION 1:** Create your own work of Pop Art!

- Everyone in class (who wants to) creates his/her own work of Pop Art (painting, collage, sculpture, ...).
- Together with the classmates who have also created something, put together your own class exhibition.
- For your 'exhibition opening', walk through your gallery together. When you stop at a piece of art, the artist responsible for it explains it to the others.

OPTION 2: Interactive project

With a partner, choose a Pop Art artist you have not dealt with so far. Prepare an interactive project in three stations for your classmates.

- **Station A:** Your classmates read an article about the artist's life and then prepare a quiz, i.e. they should ask each other questions about the artist.
- **Station B:** Present four pieces of art made by the artist and let your classmates decide which is best. But: They must give reasons!
- **Station C:** Look for statements by your chosen artist about art / Pop Art, and about the life and task of an artist. Write them on transparencies and have your classmates discuss the artist's attitudes.

Lösungen

1

a)

1. Dictionary definition of 'to pop': to pop – to come suddenly and unexpectedly
2. *Lösungsvorschläge*: What could 'pop' have to do with an art movement? Perhaps the art movement was surprising, came suddenly, was a revolution, was something totally new, etc.

b)

Lösungsvorschläge: Andy Warhol started to become famous in the 1960s; he is famous for his colourful portraits, e.g. of Marilyn Monroe; he knew a lot of famous people; he was famous for his unusual appearance.

2

a)

1. sofa, tape recorder, paintings, poster, tables, television, etc.
2. *Lösungsvorschläge*:
 - Maybe the artist is trying to show that everyday things are boring alone but that so many boring things together look silly.
 - Maybe the artist is making fun of people who have too many things in their homes / who want so many things that there is no space to really live.
 - Maybe the artist is asking whether we really need so many things; etc.

3. *Lösungsvorschläge*:

- Possible definition of Pop Art: Pop Art wants to change the way we look at everyday things, e.g. by presenting them in different and/or surprising contexts, by mixing them with different objects, etc.
- Possible explanation of what Pop Art wants to express: Pop Art wants to criticize tradition; wants to criticize / make fun of the things society is used to seeing as 'normal'.

b)

1. *Individuelle Antworten*
2. *Mediation (Lösungsvorschlag)*: Pop Art ist eine Kunstrichtung, die in den 50er Jahren in England entstand und in den 60ern in den USA Erfolg hatte. Sie nutzt die Möglichkeiten der Massenproduktion und setzt deren Produkte in einen neuen Kontext, kombiniert sie neu und zeigt so neue Facetten der

Bedeutung auf, meist auch ironisch. Pop Art ist eine bedeutende Kunstrichtung des 20. Jahrhunderts. Sie nutzt die Themen und Techniken der Massenkultur und grenzt sich klar gegen den sog. *Abstract Expressionism* ab.

3. *Individuelle Antworten*

c)

1. *Lösungsvorschlag*: In this painting a girl is in the water, drowning (sinking). She is crying and is saying that she does not want to call a person named Brad for help (who is surely her boyfriend / lover / husband). The painting reminds the viewer of a cartoon.

2. *Lösungsvorschläge*:

- The artist uses the cartoon format to put a very serious situation – a girl is drowning! – into a kind of very popular art form (cartoon). The speech bubble adds a funny touch: the girl prefers to drown instead of calling a (boy)friend for help. She doesn't seem to take her situation seriously, and so the viewer relaxes and doesn't take it seriously; it's 'just' a cartoon.
- The artist is perhaps making fun of relationships; maybe the girl had had a fight with Brad and is mad at him that she thinks she would rather die at that moment than ask him for help.

3. *Lösungsvorschlag*: In the 1960s, American artists looked for more aggressive forms of Pop Art to create a distance between art and the very sophisticated advertising of that time; the advertising world had taken ideas from Pop Art, and the artists didn't like that.

4. b) *Example notes on artists*

(Lösungsvorschläge):

- Robert Rauschenberg: perhaps best-known for his 'Combines' works, for which he took totally unrelated objects (trash and other things from the street) and combined them into a work of art
- Wayne Thiebaud: perhaps best-known for his paintings of industrially-produced food items, e.g. cakes, candy (machines)
- Andy Warhol: perhaps best-known for turning everyday/popular objects (e.g. soup cans) into art; loved creating celebrity portraits