Art of the Modern World

Lecture 1: Post-Impressionism
Modernism (ca. 1850-1960)

• Materials and techniques
• Contemporary world
• Elitist and esoteric
• Avant-garde

Cézanne
Madame Cézanne in a Red Dress
Roger Fry and the Post-Impressionists (1910)

Artists:
• Vincent van Gogh
• Paul Gauguin
• Paul Cezanne
• Georges Seurat
• Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (sometimes associated)
Cézanne

Mont Sainte-Victoire

1902-04
Cézanne

The Basket of Apples

c. 1893
Georges Seurat

A Sunday on La Grande Jatte – 1884

1884-86
Chavannes, *The Sacred Grove*, 1884
Vincent Van Gogh, *Nursery on Schenckweg*, 1882
Vincent van Gogh, *The Potato Eaters*, 1885

Vincent van Gogh, *study of hands*, 1885
Vincent van Gogh

The Bedroom

1888
Vincent van Gogh

Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear

1889
Van Gogh

The Starry Night

1889
Paul Gauguin

Spirit of the Dead Watching

1892
Michelle Hartley

Performance/Call to Action: Correct Art History

2018
Michelle Hartney
United States, b. 1978
2018
Performance/Call to Action

“We can no longer worship at the altar of creative genius while ignoring the price all too often paid for that genius. In truth, we should have learned this lesson long ago, but we have a cultural fascination with creative and powerful men who are also “mercurial” or “volatile,” with men who behave badly.

These men are given wide berth. Their prominence grants them a certain amount of immunity. We forgive their trespasses because they create such brilliant work, because they are so charismatic, because there is such an allure to people who defy cultural conventions, who dare to do whatever they want. Whether we’re talking about Bill Cosby or Woody Allen or Roman Polanski or Johnny Depp or Kevin Spacey or Harvey Weinstein or Russell Simmons [or Gauguin or Picasso or Chuck Close] or any man who has built his success on the backs of women and men whose suffering was ignored for the sake of that success, it’s time to say that there is no artistic work, no legacy so great that we choose to look the other way.

I no longer struggle with artistic legacies. It is not difficult to dismiss the work of predators and angry men because agonizing over a predator’s legacy would mean there is some price I am willing to let victims pay for the sake of good art, when the truth is no half hour of television is so excellent that anyone’s suffering is recompense. Instead, I remember how many women’s careers were ruined; I think of those who gave up their dreams because some “genius” decided indulging his thirst for power and control mattered more than her ambition and dignity. I remember all the silence, decades and decades of enforced silence, intimidation, and manipulation, that enabled bad men to flourish. When I do that, it’s quite easy for me to think nothing of the supposedly great art of bad men.

There are all kinds of creative people who are brilliant and original and enigmatic and capable of treating others with respect. There is no scarcity of creative genius, and that is the artistic work we can and should turn to instead.”

-Roxane Gay

https://www.michellehartney.com/correct-art-history
Extra Images
Cézanne

Bathers
(Les Grandes Baigneuses)

about 1894-1905
Seurat
*Circus*
1890-1891
Vincent van Gogh

Iris

1889
Vision after the Sermon (or Jacob Wrestling with the Angel)

1888