Chapter Guide #29: Modernism

**MODERNISM CONTEXT:**

The first half of the 20th century was a period of significant upheaval worldwide. The globe saw major industrial powers expand their colonial empires, it fought 2 global wars, Communism, Fascism, and Nazism was on the rise, and suffered the Great Depression. This was also a time of radical change with the arts with great risks.

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)**

Matisse’s Woman with the Hat

Matisse’s Harmony in Red

Kirchner’s Street, Dresden

Kandinsky’s Improvisation 28

Kollwitz’s Woman with Dead Child

Schiele’s Nude Self-Portrait

Picasso’s Gertrude Stein

Picasso’s Les Demoiselles d’ Avignon

Braque’s The Portuguese

Delaunay’s Homage to Bleriot

Picasso’s Still Life with Chair-Caning

Picasso’s Guernica

Leger’s The City

Balla’s Dynamism of a Dog on A Leash

Boccioni’s Unique Forms of Continuity in Space

Arp’s Collage Arranged According to the Laws of Chance

Duchamp’s Fountain

Hoch’s Cut with the Kitchen Knife Dada through the Last Weimar Beer Belly Cultural Epoch of Germany

Malevich’s Suprematist Composition” Airplane Flying

Duchamp’s Nude Descending a Staircase

Ray’s Cadeau

Douglas’s Noah’s Ark

Stieglitz’s The Steerage

Beckmann’s Night

Dix’s Der Kreig

De Chirico’s The Song of Love

Ernst’s Two Children are Threatened by a Nightingale

Dali’s The Persistence of Memory

Magritte’s The Treachery of Images

Oppenheim’s Object

Miro’s Painting

Klee’s Twittering Machine

Mondrian’s Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow

Brancusi’s Bird in Space

Moore’s Reclining Figure

Gropius’s Shop Block

Le Corbusier’s Villa Savoye

Hopper’s Nighthawks

Wood’s American Gothic

Rivera’s Ancient Mexico

Lange’s Migrant Mother, Nipomo Valley

Kahlo’s The Two Fridas

Calder’s Lobster Trap and Fish Tail

Wright’s Kaufmann House

**TIMELINE:**

**1903** Wright Brothers first flight

**1905** Die Brucke formed

**1911**  Der Blaue Reiter

**1913** The Armory Show

**1914-1918** WWI

**1919** Bauhaus founded

**1929** Stock market crashes

**1936**  Spanish of the Spanish Civil War

**1939-1945** WWII

**VOCABULARY:**

Modernist

Avant garde

Der Blaue Reiter

Purism

Neue Sachlichleit

Constructivism

Deco Organic Style

Expressionism

Cubism

Analytic Cubism

Synthetic Cubism

Fauvism

Die Brucke

Futurist

Dada

Surrealism

De Stijl

The Armory Show

Utopian ideals

Bauhaus

Suprematism

International Style

Harlem Renaissance

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Fauvism German Expressionism

Cubism Futurism

Dada Suprematism

New Objectivity Surrealism

De Stijl Bauhaus

**WHAT IS MODERNISM?**

* Redefining “reality;” interest in other realities apart from the visual, external world of objects, space and light
* Art that calls attention to the process of its making
* Focus on the individual in the form of self analysis and self expression; desire for freedom from academic art institutions and traditional processes of art making
* Interest in the exotic and in new sources of imagery which are often non-Western
* The elements of art (formal concerns) are set as a primary structuring device of art work
* Fracturing of image and the process of various ways of abstraction
* Experimentation and use of modern materials and technology for art making
* Challenging conventional ideas of what is “beautiful”
* The objectification of the art work; an “invented” reality; moving away from pictorial space and illusionary space, form and light
* “The shock of the new;” innovation becomes one of the defining elements of art

**APPROACHES TO ANALYZING MODERN ART**

**FORMALISM**

Intellectual/reason

Formal elements

Objective/Analytical

Organization of time/space/form

**EXPRESSIONISM**

Emotional/passion

The artistic process

Subjective/expressive

Organization of experience/feeling

**WAYS OF LOOKING AT NON-REPRESENTATIONAL MODERN ART**

* **ABSTRACTION** – changing reality to some degree – the art work is still connected to the world of objects or “visual reality” but has an applied structure to reality
* **NON-OBJECTIVE** – art work which is not referenced to an exterior reality of objects or visible things but it generated by an idea, emotion, feeling, or spiritual experience