

[Essay 01]

Characteristics of **Modernism** (1860s-1970s)

1. Experimentation with materials (collage, visible paint, multi-media)
2. References older art (pastiche)
3. Questions the ideals of beauty (Impressionism, Expressionism)
4. Works against tradition and capitalism
5. Introduces the necessity of the artist (artists are creating something new, rather than just capturing the real world)

Characteristics of **Postmodernism** (1970s-2000)

1. Attempts to remove the difference between high (fine art) and low (kitsch)
2. Self-referential and parodying
3. Pro-capitalism and the commodification of culture (anything can be sold)
4. Use of text and non-art materials
5. Use of performance and art-audience interaction to create work

Select two artworks from the collection at SFMOMA: one *modern* and one *post-modern*. Try to find artworks that have some connection, either through media, formal qualities, content or genre. Describe each artwork and compare aspects of modernism and post-modernism. Research the backgrounds of the artists, the movement/ time period they were/are part of and the overall characteristics of their work. Use these examples specifically to support your arguments and comparisons.

**Due** next week. 4-6 pages plus endnotes. Typed and double spaced. [15%]

