Themes of Contemporary Art
Chapter One The Art World Expands

What is formalism and what were its goals?

Who originally wrote about this theory?

What cities in the world contain the most current contemporary galleries and art museums?

Painting Didn't Die
  • Neo-Expressionism
  David Hockney The 23rd UN Painting 1992
  Gerhard Richter Betty 1988

Photography Became a Player
  • increase in size
  • manipulation and experimentation
  Jeff Wall The Ventriloquist at a Birthday Party in October 1947 1990
  Mike and Doug Starn Triple Christ
  Sarah Dobai The Campaign 1994-95

Sculpture as an Art Form
  • minimalism
  • non-traditional materials and found objects
  Wolfgang Laib Pollen from Hazelnut 1992
  Robert Gober Untitled 1991
  Tony Cragg Eroded Landscape 1992
  Anish Kapoor Cloud Gate 2000
No Medium Dominates
• one artist can work in any media/genre

New Media Attracts Artists
• video
• digital design for traditional art (AutoCAD)
• DVD
Nam June Paik 1989
Bruce Nauman *Live and Die* 1984
Orlan
Tony Oursler *Eye* 1997

New Technology Produces New Paradigms
• staged photos

Virtual Reality Blurs Boundaries
• cyberspace
• internet
• telephone
• TV
• virtual reality

Visual Culture is Duplicated and Shared Worldwide
• 2000 Whitney Biennial shows internet art
• SFMOMA launches 010101 (http://010101.sfmoma.org/)
• expands material for Pop art
Damien Hirst *Hymn* 2000

*What events caused an upsurge in multiculturalism in contemporary art?*

*Give some examples of the characteristics of the resulting artwork.*
What are the pros and cons of this globalization in art?

Theories of Contemporary Art

• knowledge work vs. technical work (curator Bennett Simpson)

• blurring of the line between art and other categories of culture (high and low art, found objects)

Define each of the following theories.

Postmodernism

Semiotics

Feminism

Post Colonialism
Choose one of the theories and brainstorm an artwork or project in your chosen field of study that would fit into its ideas and theories.

summary of idea: