Abstract Art

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# Introduction

The form of art known as abstract art uses the visual medium to express the artist's intentions to make references to the real world by producing an illusion on the canvas. The abstract form of art is a considerably newer form of art that emerged in the 19th century. The abstract is known as a non-figurative, non-representational and non-objective type of art. This art form takes one from the real to the fictional and imaginary world. Fauvism, expressionism, cubism, and surrealism are a few types in which abstract art is imminent.

**Street Dresden, 1908**

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner’s Street Dresden 1908 is said to be one of the founding works illustrating comprehensive ‘Expressionism' (Getlein, Freeing Color; Fauvism and expressionism, 2016). Expressionism is said to relay the artist's subjective feelings to the audience through objective observations of the world around them. The Street Dresden shows the use of intense colors with a subjective contrast of contour to illuminate the value of the artistic expression. The painting shows a crowd moving forwards, everyone in the portrait seems to be doing something, while a child in the center of the painting with her feet distanced from one another show that she is trying to resist the flow of the crowd (Getlein, Freeing Color; Fauvism and expressionism, 2016). The meaning derived from such visual explains the psychological angst of the city life i.e. isolation.

**The Castle at LA Roche Guyon**

The castle at La Roche Guyon 1909 is a painting by George Braque which displays houses on a hillside surmounted by a castle (Getlein, Shattering Form; Cubism, 2016). The painting shows the basic use of geometric shapes such as cubes, cones, and cylinders. The form of abstract art is known as cubism. Cubism reduces the use of colors to a minimum and representing the form in a limited space. Braque and Picasso together explored this form of art named cubism. The art form chiefly depicts the formal structure of an object with geometrical shapes. The painting shows the use of parallel brush strokes and the use of green color for both the earth and the houses surprisingly distinguishes between them and suggests a common basis for them simultaneously (Getlein, Shattering Form; Cubism, 2016). The shades of gray, green and other show solid colors through geometric rhythms.

**The Persistence of Memory**

The Persistence of Memory 1931 by Salvador Dali is a work of abstract art depicting a dull landscape with a large creature and many limp watches, the painting is famously known for its melted watches (Getlein, World War I and After; Dada and Surrealism, 2016). The abstraction derived from this form of art is called Surrealism. Dali displays his imagination or dream through his piece of work. Surrealism represents the ideals of unconscious awakening the curiosity through mystery and metaphorical persistence of the objects within the paintings, hence surrealism refers to the fantasy and fictional existence of reality through their works. The notion behind Dali's painting is to register and demonstrate his dream while using the clocks to symbolize pessimism of the passing of time, as one sleeps (Getlein, World War I and After; Dada and Surrealism, 2016).

## Similarities

‘Street Dresden’ and ‘The Castle at LA Roche Guyon’ share that both represent the ideas of the artist; as they desired to portray. The techniques for both the portraits may be different and limited to expressionism and cubism however both are forms of abstracts of reality the artist wants to portray. However, ‘The Castle at LA Roche Guyon’ and ‘The Persistence of Memory’ also share similarities on the grounds that both seem to distort the images of reality as to create perspectives as desired by the artist. Moreover, the paintings ‘Street Dresden’ and ‘The Persistence of Memory' also share that both are concerned with the subconscious of the artist and connect with the audience with certain psychological elements.

**Differences**

Although all three paintings mentioned above are said to substantially work of abstract art, however, there are certain differences that may be visible even if the form of art is similar. The ‘Street Dresden’ is a form of expressionism while ‘The Castle at LA Roche Guyon’ represents cubism, although bot portray reality Street Dresden is a classic example of inner vision of the artist which add emotional value to the image while ‘The Castle at LA Roche Guyon’ does not add anything to the portrait it is more like a new version of the reality painted in geometric shapes. ‘The Castle at LA Roche Guyon’ and ‘The Persistence of Memory’ also differ on the grounds that the former is a differential representation of the reality while the latter has no relationship with the real world, it is mere imagination of the artist. ‘Street Dresden’ and ‘The Persistence of Memory’ both represent abstract art however one relates itself with the classical orientation of the subconscious with distorting and deformed associations with the objects while the other concerns itself with a more realistic portrayal of nature, and psychological distillation of perceived truth from the portrait.

# References

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