

*Art of the
Age of Anxiety*

A.P. European History

Themes in Early Modern Art

- *Uncertainty/insecurity*
- *Disillusionment*
- *The subconscious*
- *Overt sexuality*
- *Violence and savagery*

Age of Anxiety Art

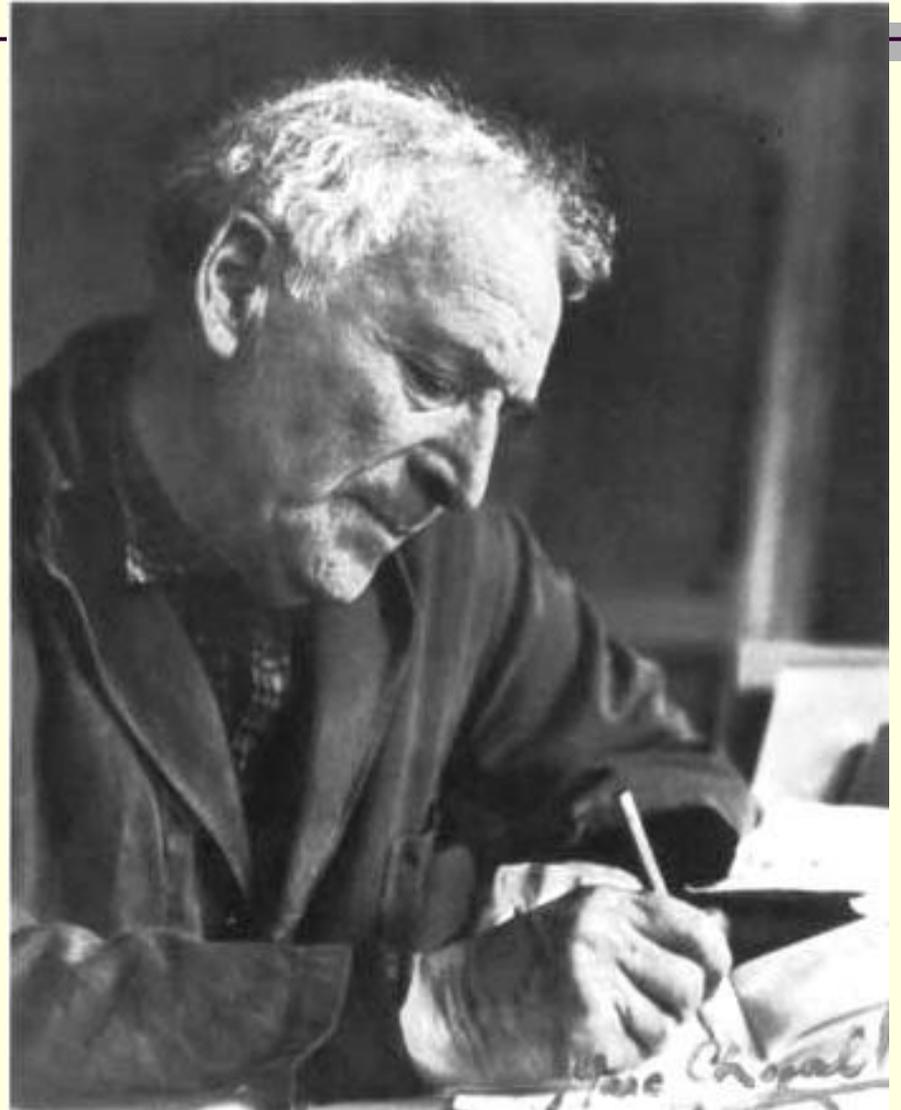
- With Impressionism, the “formal style” had been crushed and thus we see an explosion of new genres
 - All symbolize the post-war anxiety through the eyes of anger, war, death, individualism, skepticism, Freud, etc.
 - looking at things that can't been seen externally, using art to get at mood, emotion, feelings, and thoughts
- Expressionism
- Abstract
- Surrealism
- Cubism
- Dadaism
- Bauhaus

Expressionism

- Developed in 1905
- Heightened, symbolic colors and exaggerated imagery
- the tendency of an artist to distort reality for an emotional effect
- Raises subjective feelings above objective observations
- Meant to reflect the artists state of mind rather than reality of external world

Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

- Jewish, born in Russia, but fled to Paris in 1914



Marc Chagall

- *The Fiddler* (1912-1913)
- Mythic figure representing the celebration of Jewish births, marriages, and deaths
- But bears this weight of the community alone

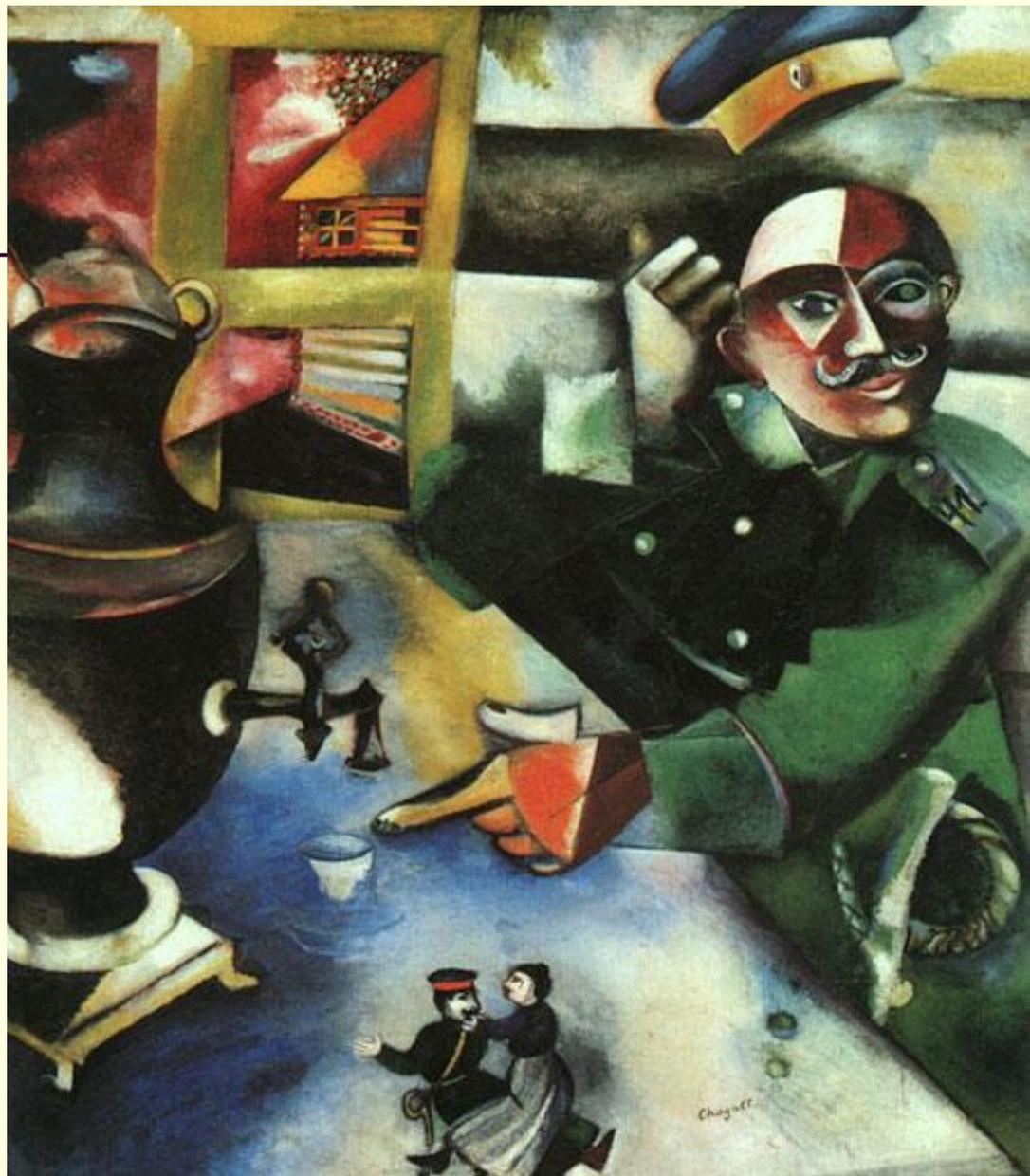




■ *The Birthday* (1915)



■ *The Pinch of Snuff* (1911)



The Soldier Drinks (1911-12)

Edvard Munch (1863-1944)

- Norwegian
- he abandoned impressionism to portray from his profound sense of isolation the themes of death, fear, and anxiety
- he developed an exciting, violent, and emotionally charged style
 - Birth of German Expressionism
- Reaction to his stark, fearsome images caused the closing of an important Berlin exhibition of 1892





The Scream (1895)

- one of the famous works of art in popular culture
 - "Together with the Mona Lisa, it's the most famous and recognized image in art history."
 - *Michael Frahm, art adviser with Frahm Ltd.*
- Sold for \$120 million in May 2012
 - the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction

- What makes *The Scream* so iconic?

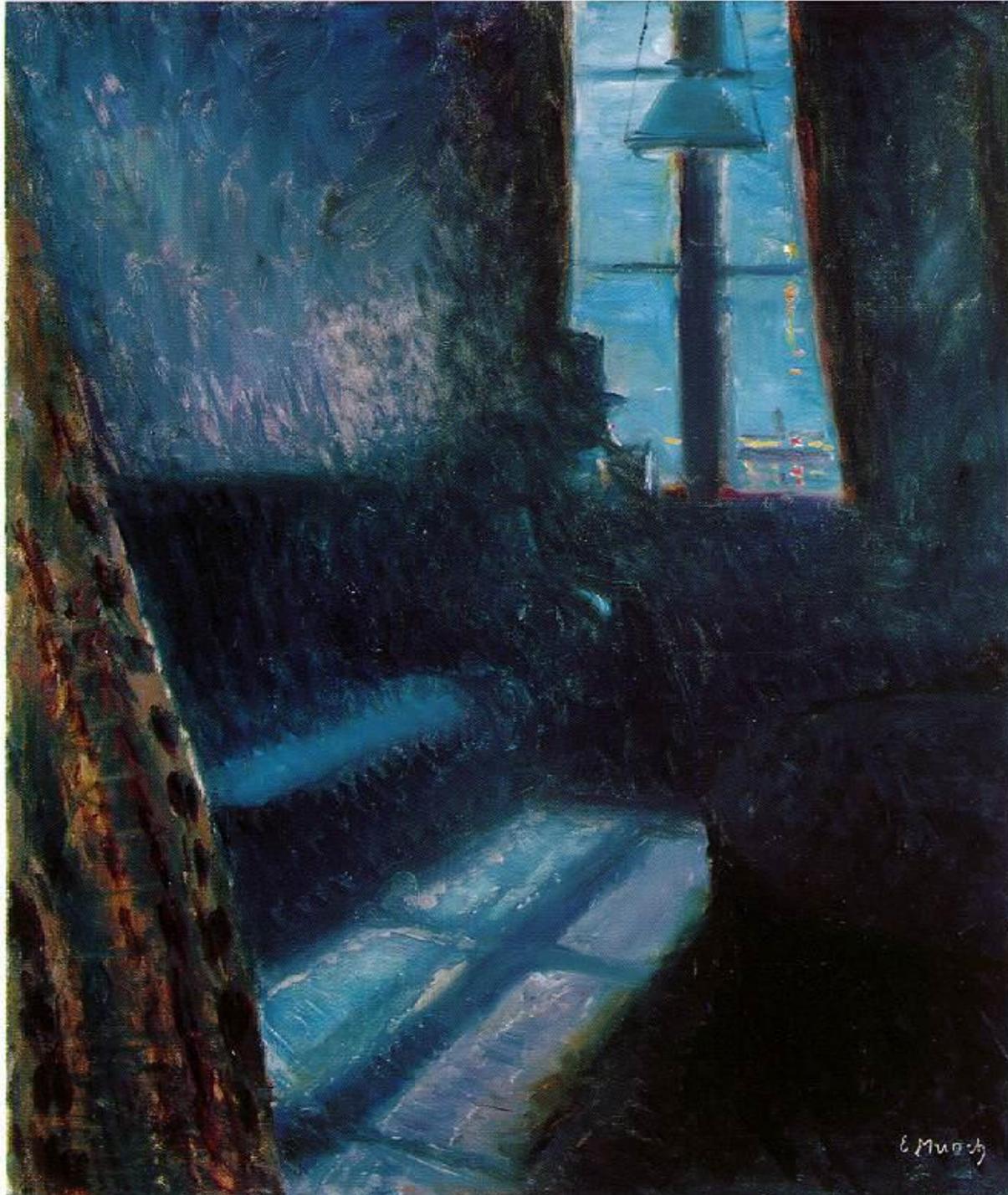
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9712000/9712756.stm



Evening on Karl Johan



Death in the Sickroom

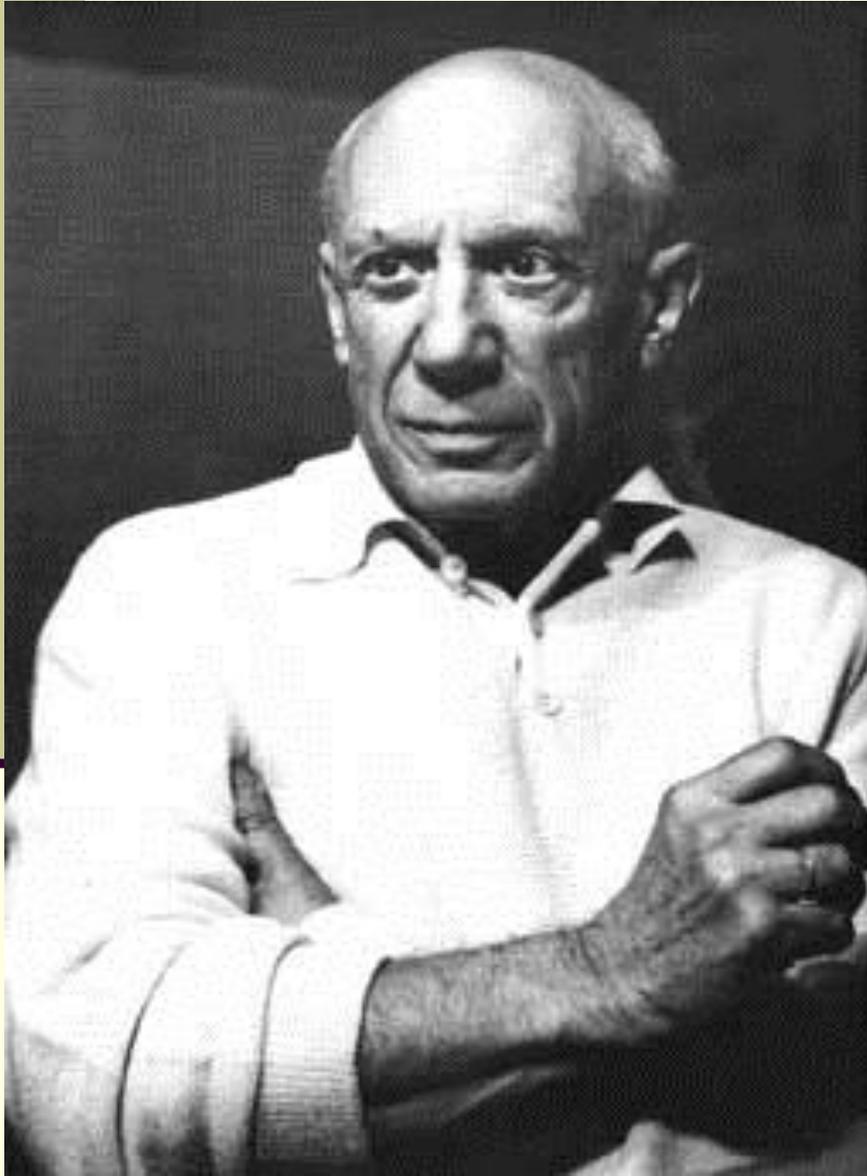


Night in St. Cloud

Cubism

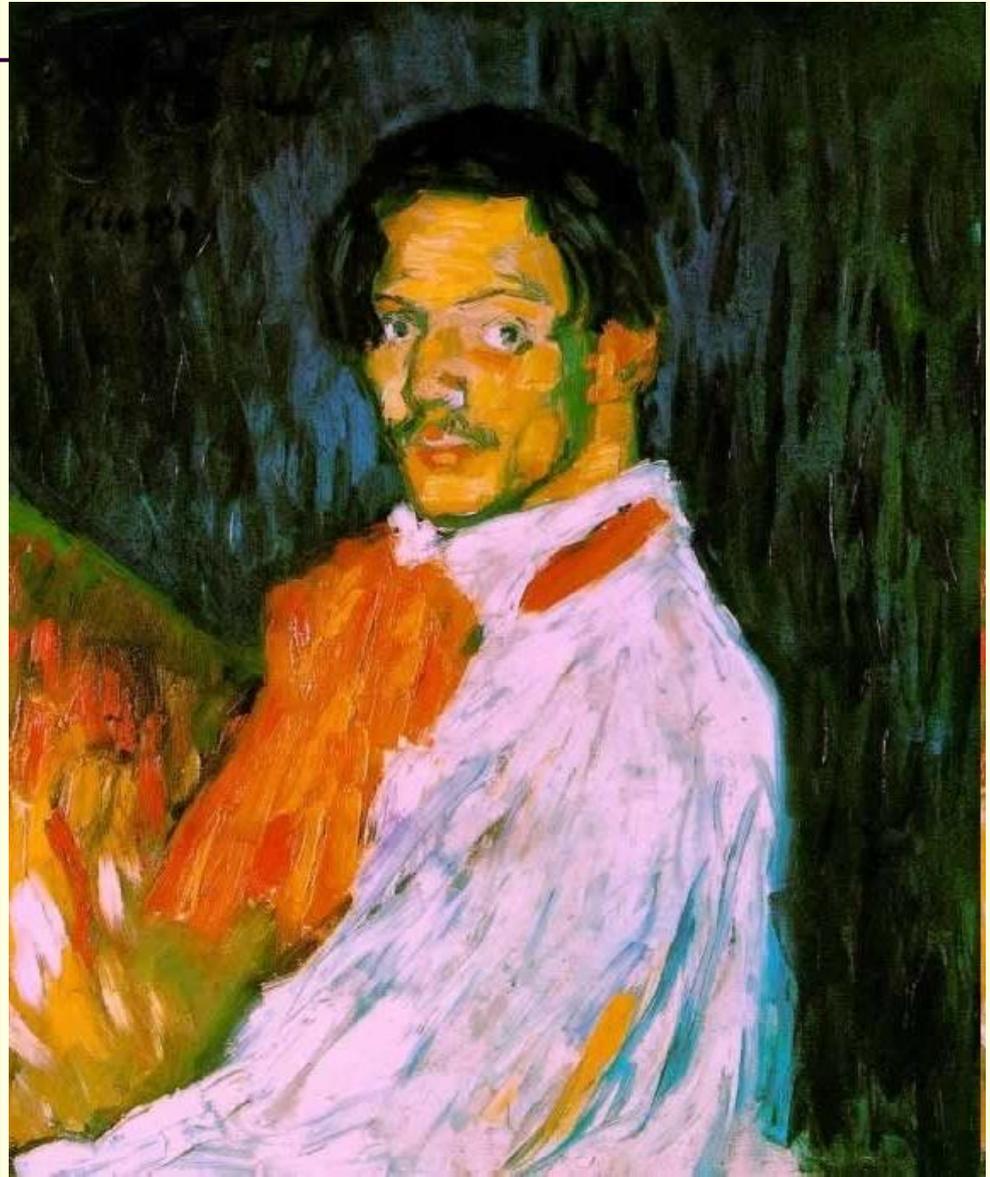
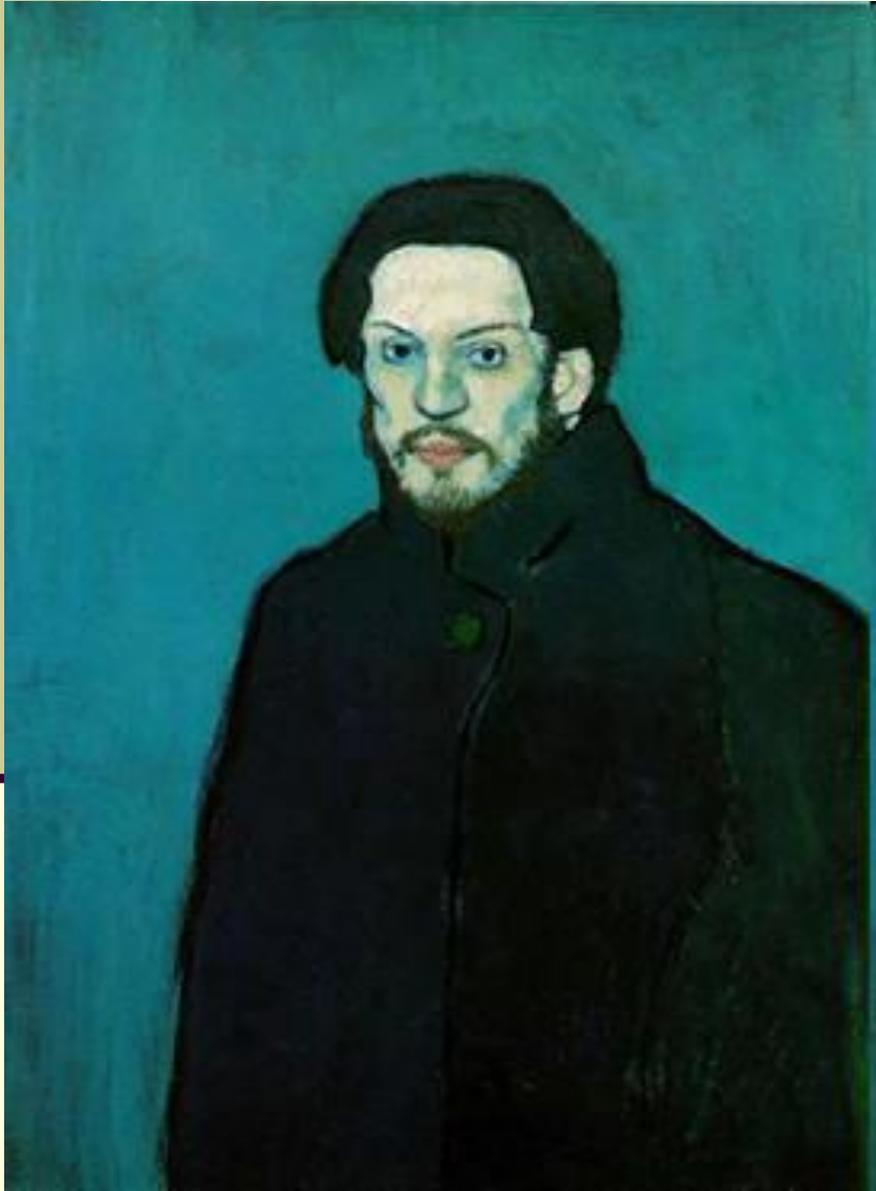
- One of the most influential and revolutionary movements in art
- Every aspect of a subject was seen simultaneously
 - a new, radical version of still life
 - Items are broken up as a puzzle, challenging you to put them back together
 - Looking at more than the visual and external
- Started in 1907 by Spaniard Pablo Picasso

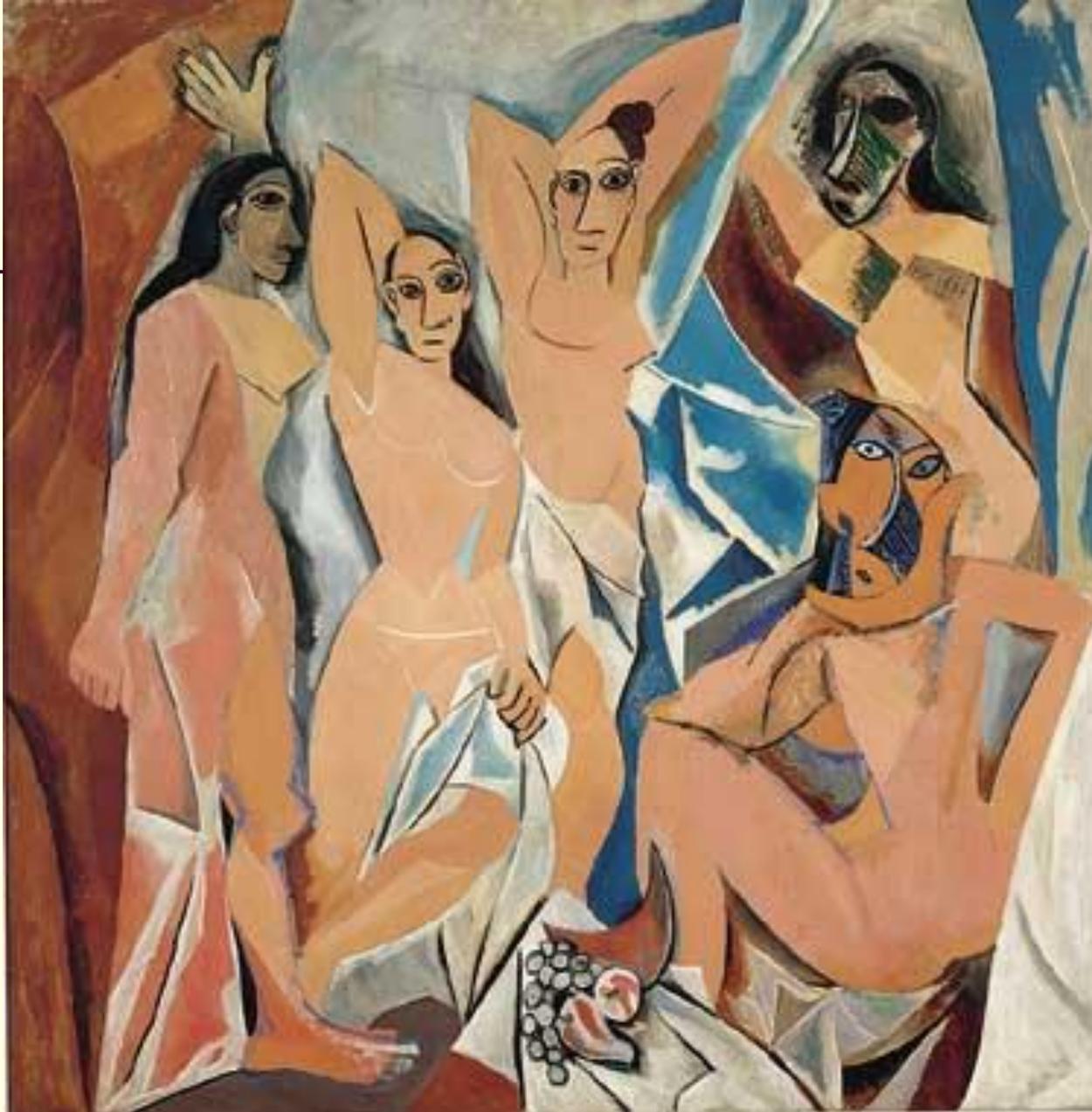
Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)



- Picasso was an experimental artist
 - Tried different styles, but eventually fell into Cubism
- Against the mechanical method of photographic paintings
- “One does not paint in order to decorate apartments.” -Picasso

Self-Portraits





- *The Young Ladies of Avignon* (1907)
 - Prostitutes in a Paris brothel



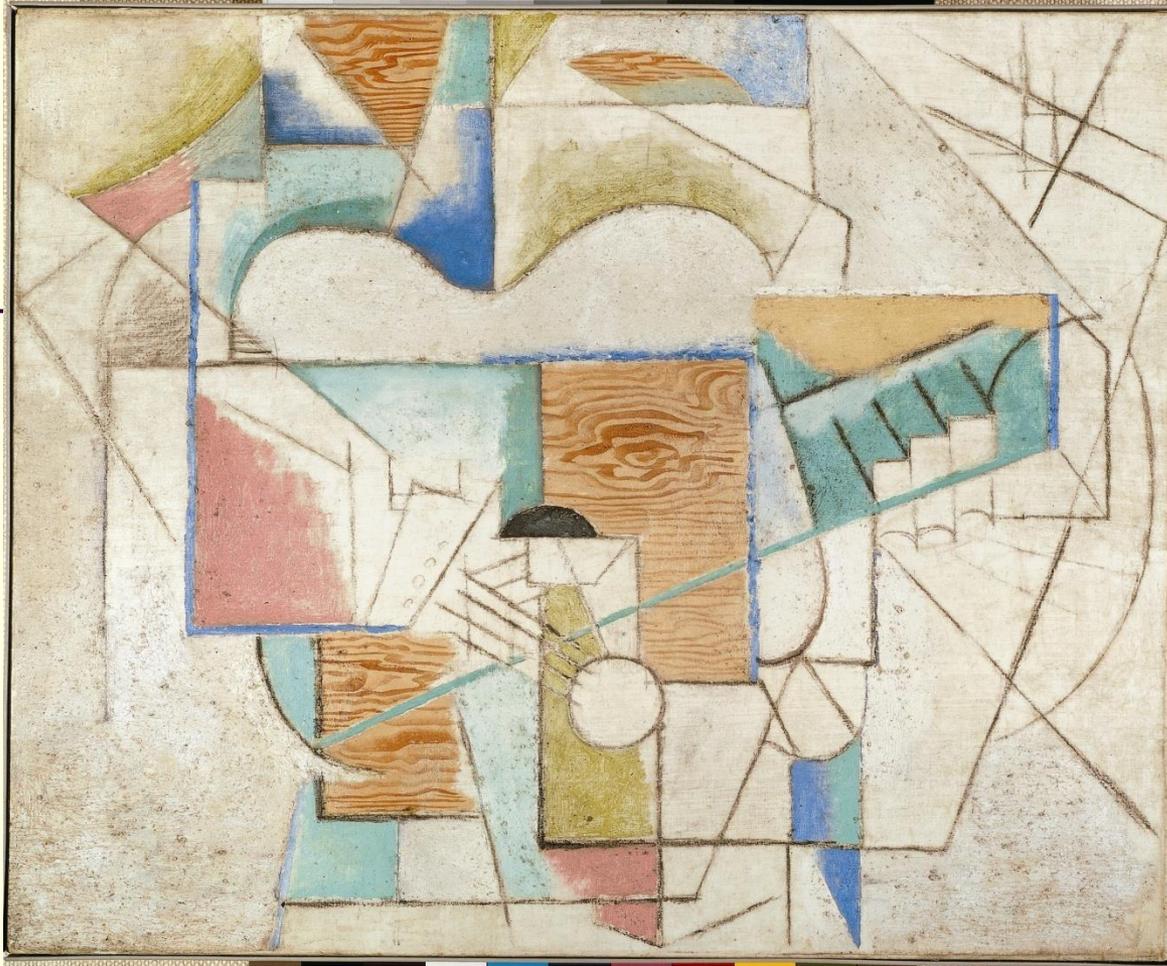
■ *Portrait of Marie-Thérèse (1937)*

Studio with Plaster Head (1925)





*Woman with a
Flower
(1932)*



- *Guitar on a Table*
- Shows a guitar in pieces on a table
 - Not trying to show the guitar, but the sound coming out of the guitar
- It's a representation of sound



Picasso and the Spanish Civil War

- During the Spanish Civil War, Picasso had been asked to create a series of prints to raise funds for the Republic
 - *The Dream and Lie of Franco* was a savage attack by Picasso on Franco's regime
 - Franco was portrayed as a swollen monster, proceeding through a series of scenes to desecrate and destroy all in his path
 - Months later, he was asked to paint what became one of his most well-known pieces -- *Guernica*

Guernica

On April 26th, 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, General Francisco Franco called on his allies Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy to bomb the Basque town of Guernica

- Targeted them due to their support for the Republicans





■ ***Guernica*** (1937)

- Picasso's hallucinatory nightmarish view of the Spanish Civil War
- Hoping for a bold visual protest to Franco's treachery from Spain's most eminent artist, colleagues and representatives of the democratic government came to Picasso's home in Paris to ask him to paint the mural
- one of modern art's most powerful anti-war statements

Guernica

- It first appeared at the 1937 World's Fair in Paris
 - Specifically it appeared in the Spanish Pavilion at the World's Fair
 - The German fair guide called *Guernica* "a hodgepodge of body parts that any four-year-old could have painted."
- After the Fair, *Guernica* toured Europe and North America to raise consciousness about the threat of fascism
- Although Picasso had always intended for the mural to be owned by the Spanish people, he refused to allow it to travel to Spain until the country enjoyed "public liberties and democratic institutions"

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- Picasso remarked, "It isn't up to the painter to define the symbols. Otherwise it would be better if he wrote them out in so many words! The public who look at the picture must interpret the symbols as they understand them."

Pablo Picasso looks at a picture of Stalin in 1949

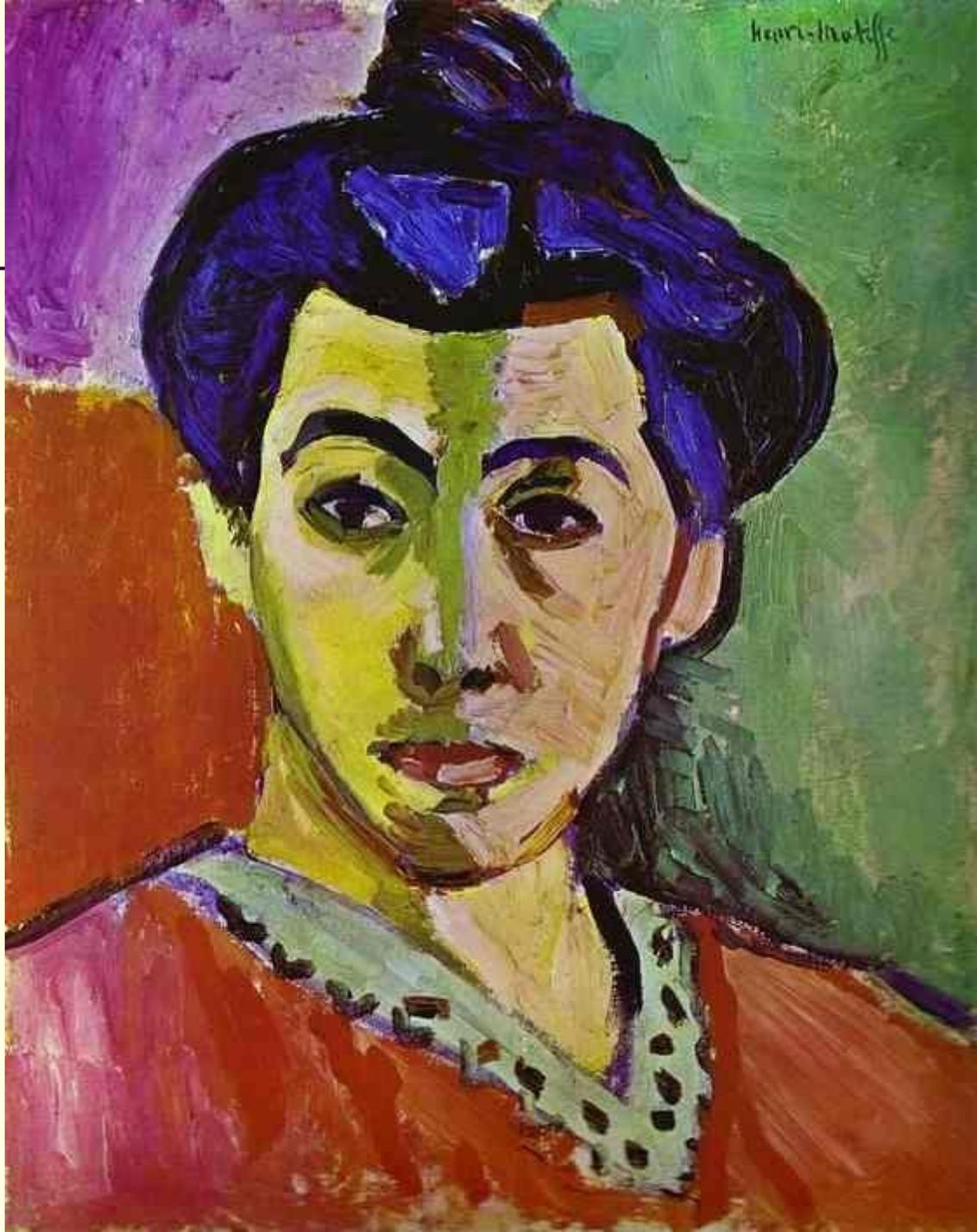


Henri Matisse -- France (1869-1954)





*The Woman with
the Hat*





Abstract

- Free experimentation and originality
- Thought their art would lead people to spiritual enlightenment
- Proponents of non-representational imagery
 - Has its own language that consists of colors, shape, and form of self-expression
 - Very philosophical
 - Used the beauty of common objects, which were described as “everyday poetic images”
 - Overlapping planes, broken surfaces, fragmented forms, etc.
 - Understanding it implicitly requires very demanding, time-consuming labor
- The leading abstract painters included Wassily Kandinsky (Russian), Paul Klee (Swiss), and Fernand Leger (French)
 - Leger and Klee served in WWI, and were both profoundly transformed by the experience

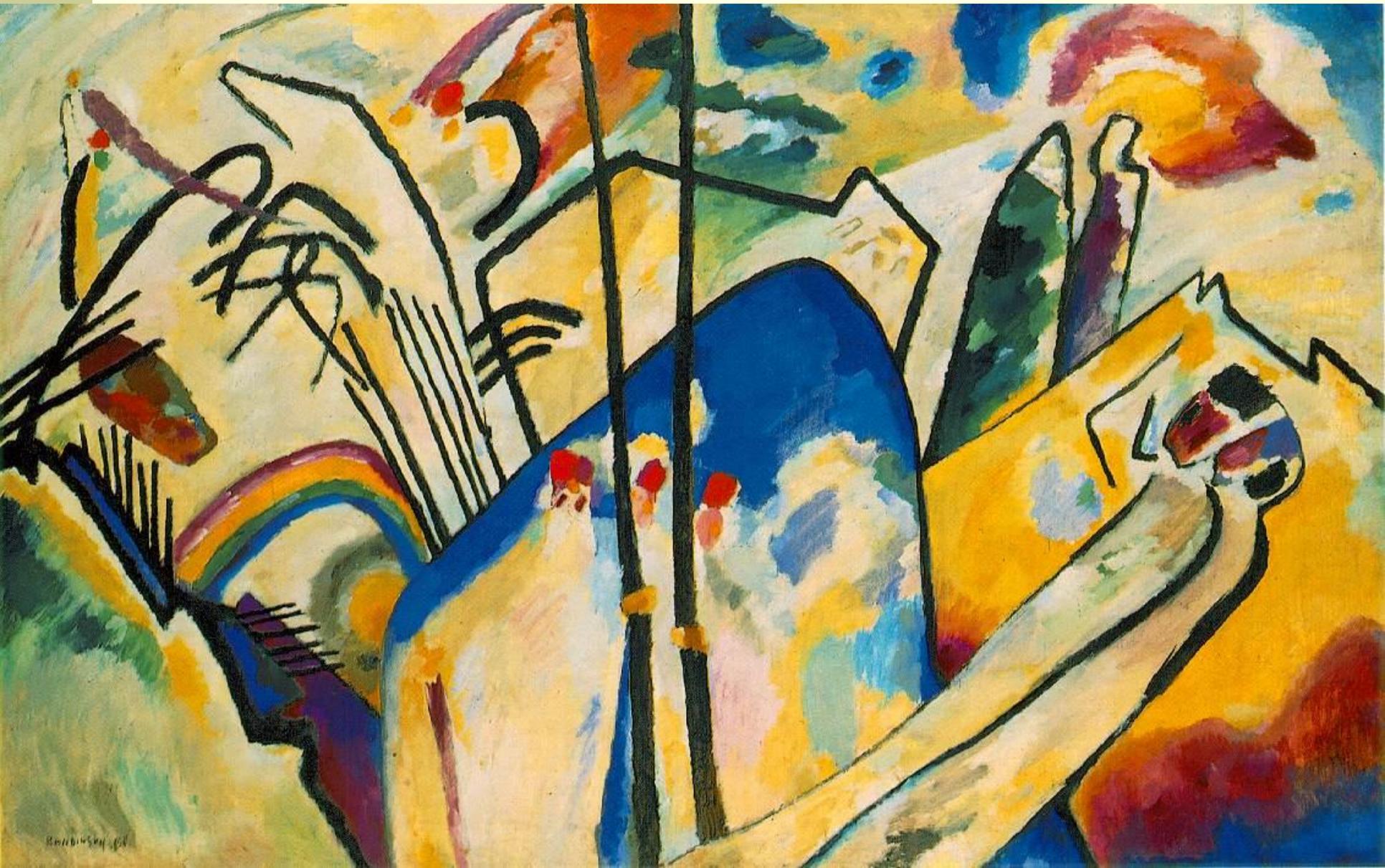
Paul Klee (1879-1940)





2011

Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944)





VASILY KANDINSKY

Color Study - Squares and Concentric Circles



Fernand Leger (1881-1955)





Dadaism

- Lasted only from 1916-1922
- Precursor to Surrealism
- Literary and artistic movement by artists appalled and disillusioned by WWI
- Challenged established art forms with irrational concepts in their work (“anti-art”)
- Appeared to not make any sense
- Negative in their attitudes about European culture and society

Dadaism

- Name chosen randomly from a German dictionary and means nothing more than “hobbyhorse”
- Started by Hugo Ball, Emmy Hennings, and Tristan Tzara





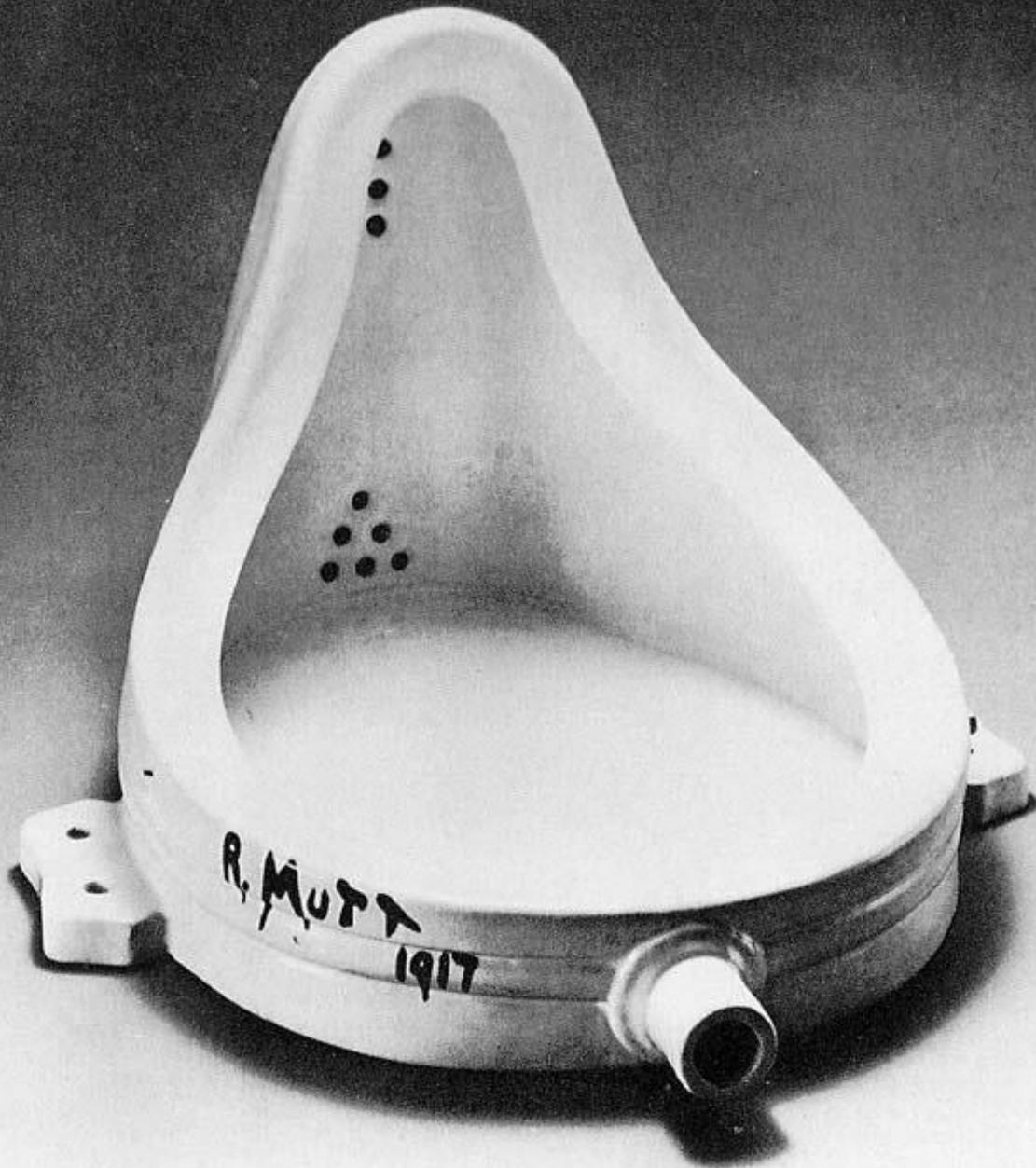


L.H.O.O.Q.

- Marcel Duchamp
 - French Dada artist
 - painted moustaches on postcards of the Mona Lisa

■ “I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste.”

■ *Marcel Duchamp*



■ Marcel Duchamp

- His 1917 urinal, entitled "Fountain"
 - Just bought a urinal and signed it "R. Mutt"
 - sold for \$1,185,000 in 2002



Jacqueline Matisse Monnier



Jose Mugrabi/ Dayan and Luxembourg



the Bauhaus School

- Started in Germany by Walter Gropius in 1919
 - This was when Weimar Germany was progressive socially, politically and culturally
 - a new school of art, architecture and design
 - Grappled with what it meant to live in an age of machines, mass consumption and post-war dread
 - His rational pursuit of common forms was a political response to the war
 - His strictly regimented apartment blocks had all right angles



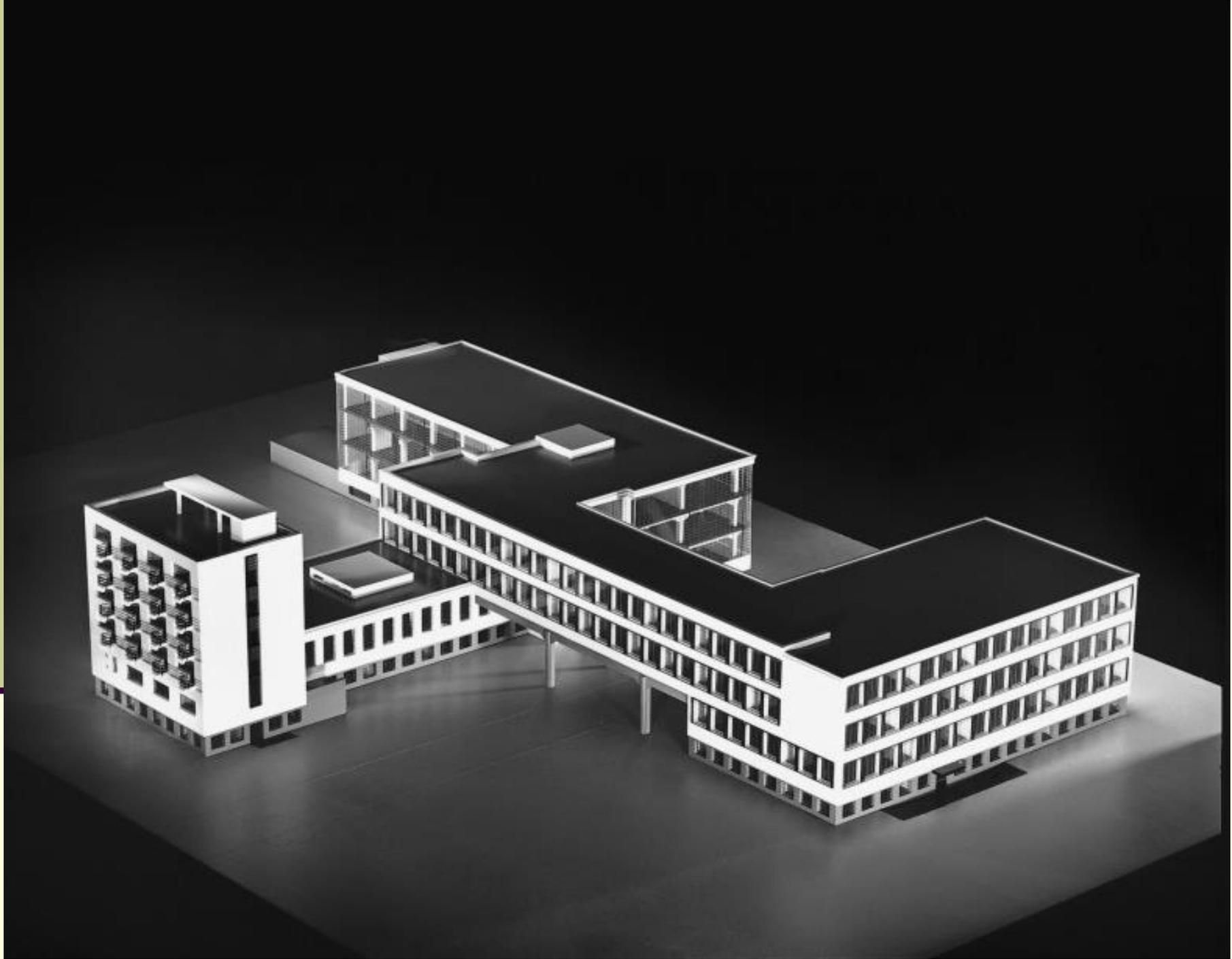
the Bauhaus School

- wanted a new understanding of art
- Gropius conceived of a place where painters, sculptors, architects and designers worked together in experimental laboratories
 - Instead of the traditional art academy, where students imitated historical paintings and recreated tired archetypes of beauty
- the Nazis shut it down in 1933

Walter Gropius's housing estates



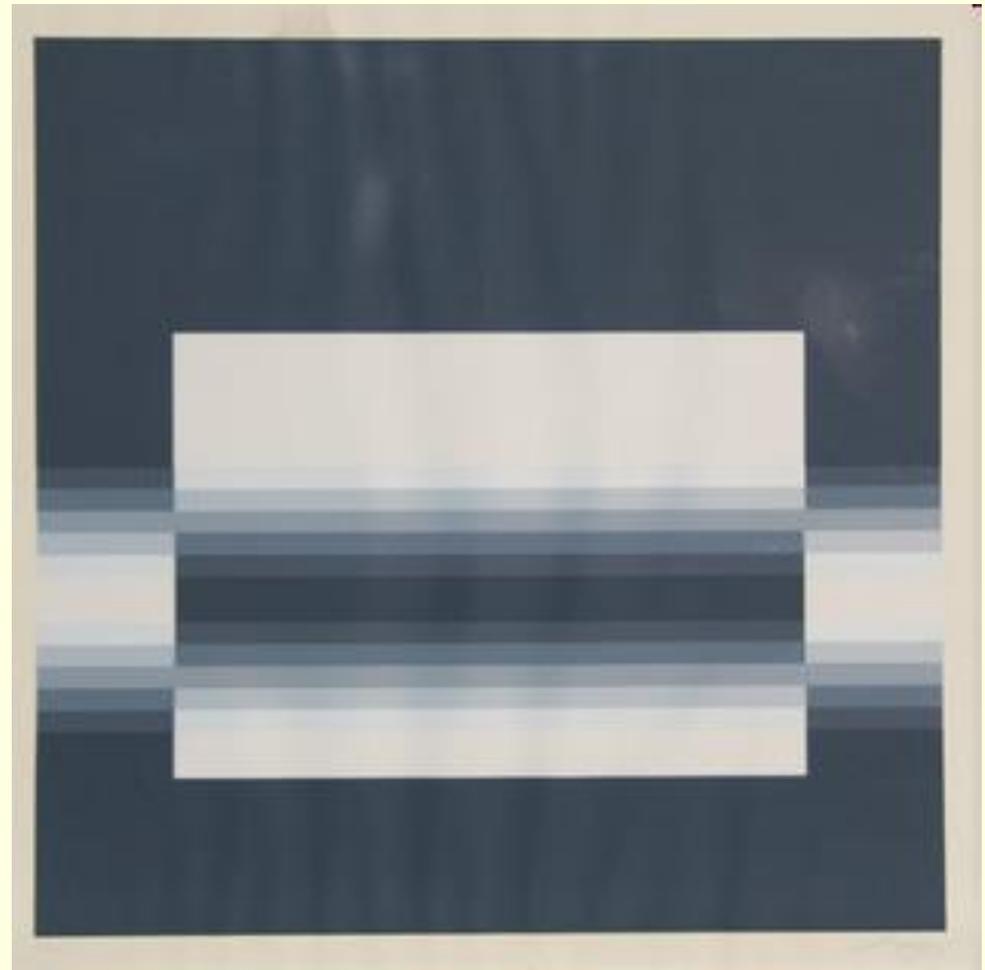




Bauhaus architect Mies van der Rohe



Herbert Bayer's graphic designs



Surrealism

- “Surrealism is destructive, but it destroys only what it considers to be shackles limiting our vision.” -Salvador Dali (1929)
- Surrealism developed out of Dada
- Designed to undermine our complacent belief in a stable, predictable, rational world
- Began in 1924 and combined irrationality of Dada with the idea of pure, unreasoned thought through subconscious dreams
 - Influenced by Freud’s theories on psychoanalysis and the subconscious
 - believed ultimate reality lies in the subconscious mind
 - Focused on children’s drawings, art of the insane, and untrained amateurs whose art sprang from pure creative impulses

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- In 1924, poet Andre Breton said the aim of surrealism is to explore the unconscious *“in the absence of all control exercised by reason, outside of all aesthetic and moral preoccupation.”*

Rene Magritte (Belgium, 1898-1967)



Hykawa, 1917

magritte
The Collection

Walters Art Museum, 1998

- ***The Fall (1953)***



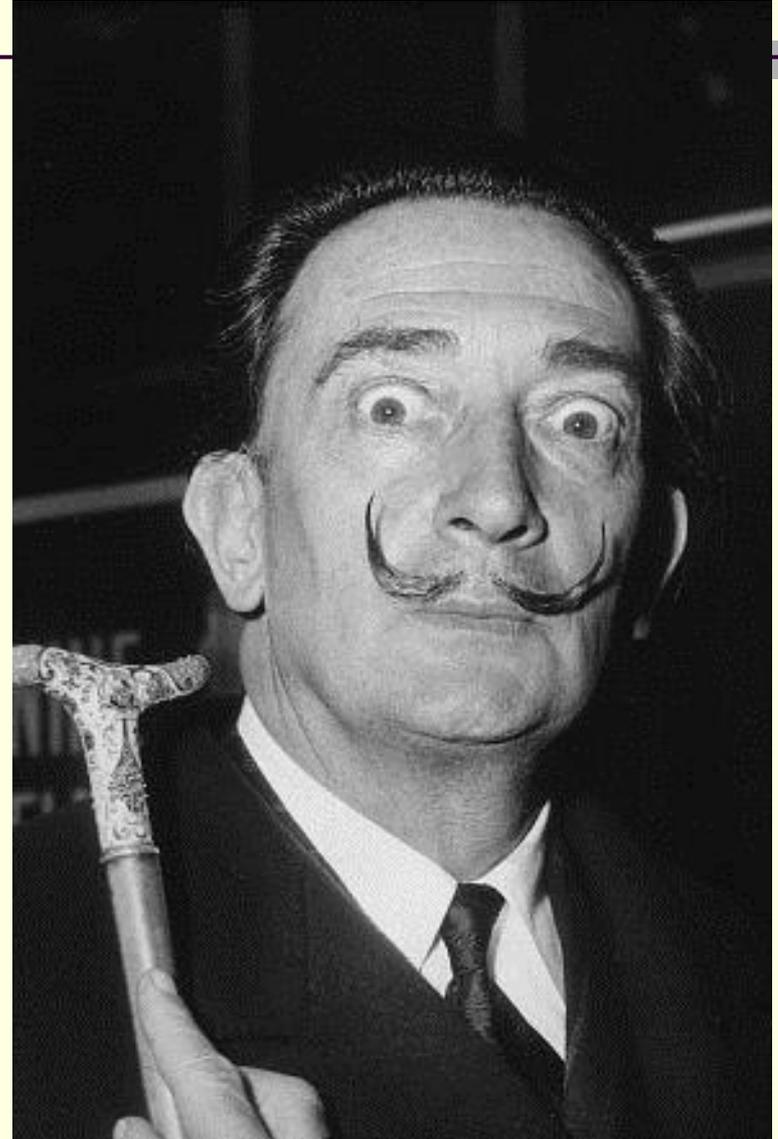
Son of Man (1964)

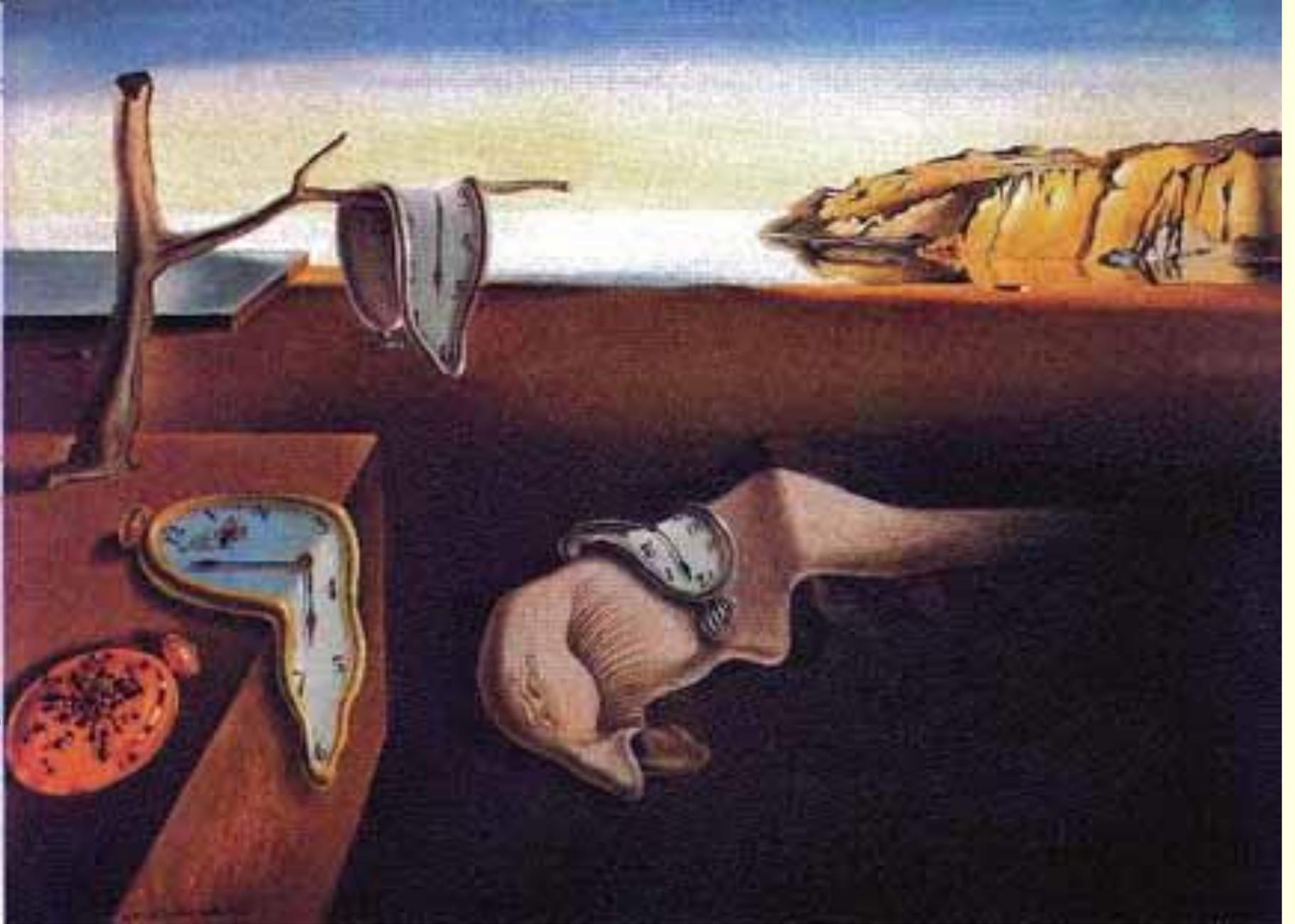


La Thérapeute (1941)

Salvador Dali

- 1904-1989
- Spanish
- “hand-painted dream photographs”
- Snapshots of things that do not exist

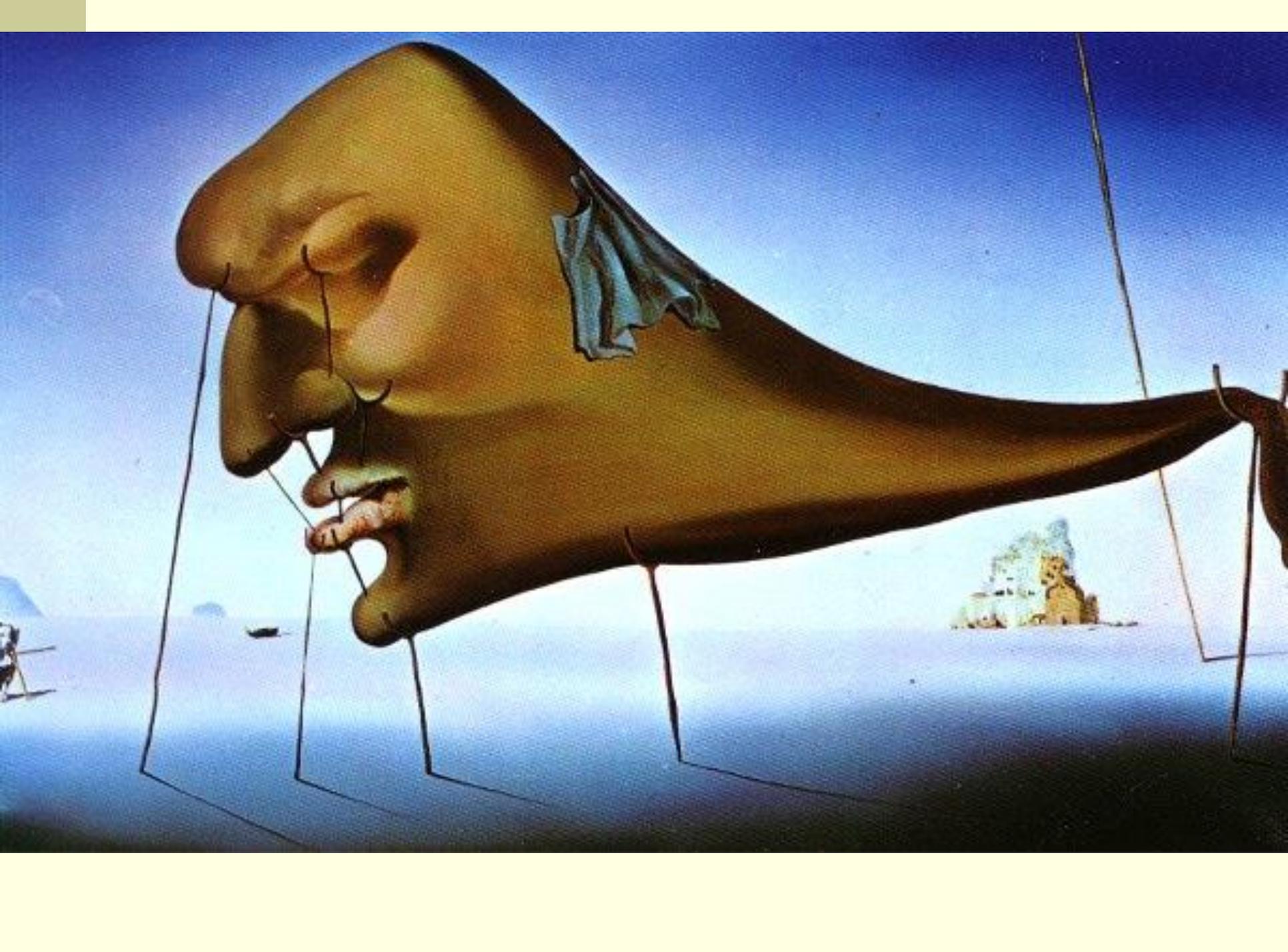


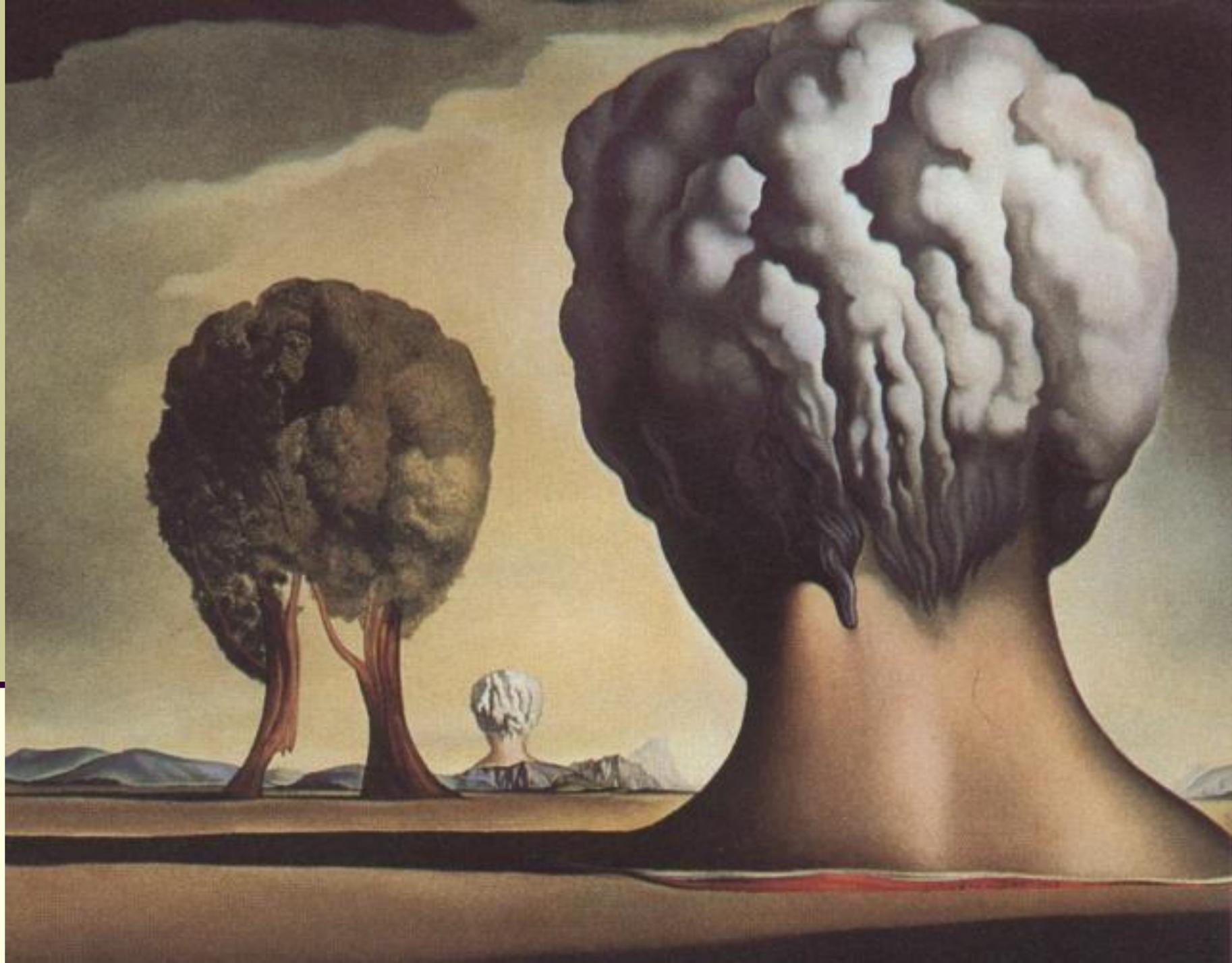


The Persistence of Memory (1931)

The Apparition of the Face and Fruit Dish on a Beach







Suppression of the Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany

- With Hitler in power by 1933, the Nazi Party mounted an aggressive campaign against Modern art
 - Hitler, himself a landscape painter, developed an intense hatred of the avant-garde
 - attacked German Expressionists who showed German soldiers defeated in WWI and the economic depression following the war
 - Also against the distortions of the human form
 - Considered unpatriotic, sick and degenerative
 - Works were removed from museums, most publicly burned, and artists were forbidden to paint or exiled
 - Ex. on 20 March 1939, 1,004 paintings and sculptures and 3,825 watercolors, drawings and prints were burned in the courtyard of the Berlin Fire Department

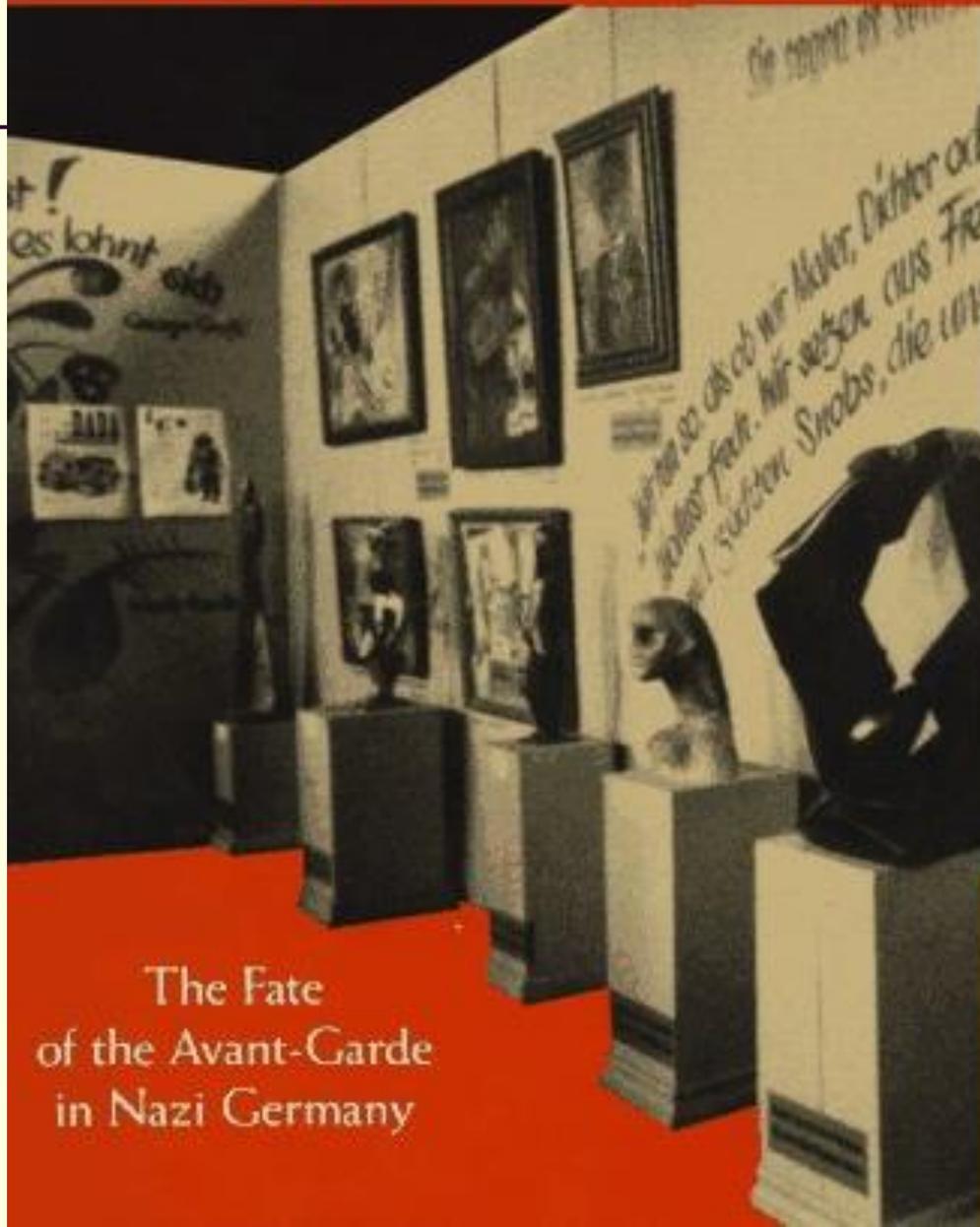
“Degenerate Art”

- the Nazis branded some 20,000 works of art as "degenerate"
 - For the National Socialists, the term “degenerate” applied to any type of art that was incompatible with their ideology or propaganda
 - art that was considered to be too "Jewish" or "un-German"
 - Included modernist art (Expressionism, Impressionism, Dada, Surrealism, Cubism) and any art by Jewish artists
 - Artists included Paul Klee and Pablo Picasso
 - Many of them were sold to generate hard currency for Hitler's regime; other works were simply confiscated by Nazi functionaries; others were simply destroyed

“Degenerate Art”

- On July 19, 1937, the “Degenerate Art” exhibition opened in Munich
- Initiated by Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels
- Hitler opened the exhibition by describing German art as suffering "a great and fatal illness"
- It included 650 works of art confiscated from 32 German museums
 - The exhibition sought to demonstrate the “degeneration” of artworks by placing them alongside drawings done by the mentally retarded and photographs of the physically handicapped
- the exhibition traveled to 12 other cities from 1937 to 1941
 - eventually included 16,000 paintings and sculptures removed from the walls of German museums in 1937-38
- Nazi leaders invited public mockery and the exhibition saw 2 million visitors
 - one of the best attended modern art exhibitions of all time

"Degenerate Art"



The Fate
of the Avant-Garde
in Nazi Germany

Audio: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01kg4s9>



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The pieces were displayed in cramped, poorly lit rooms and were surrounded by insulting graffiti

The "degenerate" art show in Berlin in 1938



Hitler at the Haus of German Art, Munich



Plastik
verschiedener Museen
15026-15061





Artist: John Steuart Curry
Title: Working
1934 - 1935



Artist: Robert Rauschenberg
Title: Untitled
1965



Artist: Robert Rauschenberg
Title: Untitled
1965



Artist: Robert Rauschenberg
Title: Untitled
1965



Nehmen Sie Dada ernst!

es lohnt sich

George Grosz



Aftermath

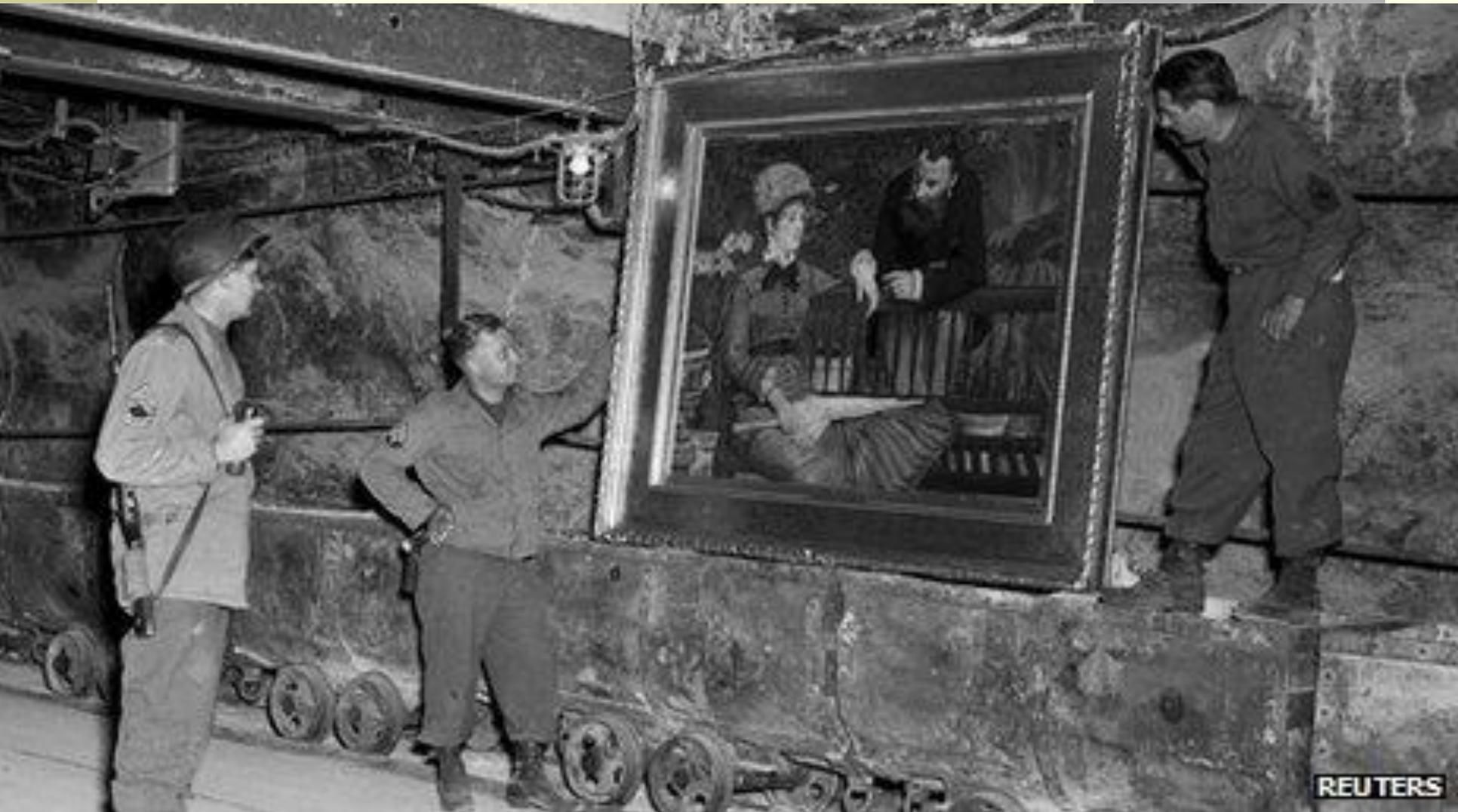
- Many artists were forced to flee their native countries because of persecution, like Paul Klee from Nazi Germany and Kandinsky and Chagall from Russia
- Many left-wing intellectuals and artists had their artwork destroyed and some even died in concentration camps, both in Germany and Russia

Nazis and Stolen Art

- the Nazis looted Europe's cultural treasures

- Hermann Goring scoured museums and private collections of wealthy deported Jews for works by famous masters
 - In his villa, he proudly displayed stolen masterpieces by Titian, Raphael, Rubens, and Rembrandt
 - Hitler also called for his Fuehrermuseum in Linz, Austria, to be filled with the supreme paintings from throughout the world
 - These were looted, confiscated and purchased by the Nazis in the occupied countries of France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Russia
- Throughout Europe, the Nazis acquired more than 100,000 works of art

U.S. Soldiers examine Edouard Manet's “Winter Garden,”
which was hidden in a salt mine, in April 25, 1945



REUTERS

May 3, 1945, US soldiers look at a painting that had been stashed by the Nazis in a salt mine near Heilbronn





General Dwight
D. Eisenhower
inspects stolen
art treasures

American soldier inspects German loot stored in a church at Ellingen, Germany, April 24, 1945



Hermann Goering's art collection, stolen from museums across Europe, is stored temporarily in building near Berchtesgaden while being catalogued, June 9, 1945



an American GI looks at art work temporarily stored in a former Nazi air force barracks in southern Bavaria, 1945





US soldiers carrying paintings from a collection discovered in Austria, much of which was to be hung in an art museum the Nazis planned to build in Linz

