

A DAY IN THE ARTS

Making art accessible to all

March 19, 2009 ADA0029 www adayinthearts.com

POP ART MOVEMENT - COMFORT IN COMMERCIALISM

By Keith King

The Pop Art movement began during the 1950s and 60s in Britain and America evolving around the products of the mass media. The artwork, derived from popular culture, became one of the United States'

major artistic movements of the 20th century.

The artwork, based on packaging, television, advertising, films and even comic books helped to break down the long held barriers between high art and mass culture.

Shortly after World War II, America was fast becoming a culture of commercial manipulation, exhibitionism and instant success. These traits made it a perfect target for artists looking to poke fun at the serious nature of the art world while at the same time holding a mirror up to society as they saw it.

Whereas in Britain the pop artists took a more romantic approach, in America the results were often times more brash; like the giant binoculars and shuttles of Claes Oldenburg. Originally considered a counter-attack on Abstract Expressionism, the pop art movement usurped the French based Dada movement in terms of its battle against highbrow art and has never looked back.



Claes Oldenburg, "Spoonbridge and Cherry", 1985-1988, aluminum, stainless steel, paint, 354 x 618 x 162 in.
Gift of Frederick R. Weisman in honor of his parents, William and Mary Weisman, 1988 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

ON-LINE PAINTING INSTRUCTION

The internet has really brought about an amazing change in the artistic world. Now it is possible to attend all sorts of art instruction classes right in your own home. Of course, these don't replace actual life drawing experiences, but it does make it easier, and more affordable, for many to obtain an education that they might otherwise not get.

Today we'll talk about YouTube. Many of you are already familiar with the web site. It features all sorts of user videos, some home-made features detailing the lives of their families, others are clips of TV shows and movies. And others are professionally or well-produced videos that educate and entertain us. YouTube features all varieties of art programs, from drawing to painting to sculpting. Most are five to ten minutes in length. Long enough to give you some hints and tips and encourage you to grab your pens and paint and start creating!

A quick search this morning brought up a few different programs. For watercolor artists, you might consider the following:

"Backroads Artist" with Cathy Johnson

<http://tinyurl.com/dap2bt>

Cathy Johnson's Ink and Wash Mini-Video

<http://tinyurl.com/c2jf9y>

Watercolour: Line and Wash with Ian King

(<http://tinyurl.com/cblmg8>)

Watercolour: Pure and Simple with A. Pitt

<http://tinyurl.com/c6896h>

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Like Dada before it, the pop art movement used common items as its subject matter and the artists preferred commercial methods of production thus allowing unlimited reproductions of the art. As



Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, "Typewriter Eraser, Scale X, model 1998", painted stainless steel and fiberglass, fabricated 1999, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation 1998.150.1 National Gallery of Art

the age of commercial uniformity closed in, pop art spread out creating such super stars as Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein to name but a few.

Pop art combines its mass produced, low cost, expendable, shiny nature to encourage the big money and bright lights to come calling. Some question if pop art is a serious comment on the contemporary condition or simply a "joke without humour." Traditional art critics may try to tell you what is and isn't popular art, but in the end the decision is entirely yours.

The accessibility of pop art makes almost everyone with an urge to create a pop artist. And although pop art has long since spawned many different sub categories and new and unusual mediums; it all comes back to art for, of and by the masses. With every generation, America seems to become more youth oriented almost certainly guaranteeing the future of pop art and it's witty, young, sexy, gimmicky works. The big business that is pop art is strengthened by the ongoing homogenization of America and the blurring of the lines between art, popular culture and commercialism.

Although many pop artists still display their works in galleries, pop art can arguably be found inside your Happy Meal from McDonalds. Popular culture and the art that represents it grows at an exponential rate each year just like most aspects of life on this earth. So what is pop art and where is it going? well, in the words of one art critic, "I don't know art, but I know what I like and I like this." 🐦

Want to know more about what makes the pop art movement tick? The best way to understand art is to look at it. Take a look at some online galleries featuring pop art that Keith recommends at Clifford Gallery and atavision

Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com>

Watercolour Basics

<http://tinyurl.com/cmuaawg>

Oil Painting:

Fishing Boats Awaiting High Tide

<http://tinyurl.com/dez76w>

Oil Painting Lesson with Jack Kolber

<http://tinyurl.com/chqhzw>

Oil Painting Lesson - Wilson Bickford

<http://tinyurl.com/d3354u>

Pastel Painting:

Art Lesson-Suspended Pastel

<http://tinyurl.com/d9jtb9>

Oil Pastel Demonstration-Beginners

<http://tinyurl.com/6pv2ck>

Marsha Savage Pastel Demo

<http://tinyurl.com/deaj6s>

Sculpture:

Sculpting the Bull - Part 1

<http://tinyurl.com/cnf7gh>

live sculpture show

<http://tinyurl.com/2lxsrn>

Making a Bronze Sculpture

<http://tinyurl.com/dm65eu>

Sculpting Demo,by Philippe Faraut

<http://tinyurl.com/c3jkkqa>

As you can see, there are a wide variety of videos available. There is bound to be something to interest you. But be aware that these work best with a high-speed internet connection and they can be addictive. Before you know it, you may have spent more time watching then creating. So use it as a tool and go create something! If you have some favorite videos, we would love to hear about them! 🐦



ART NEWS

TORRIT GREY COMPETITION

Every spring, **Gamblin Artists Colors** collects an abundance of pigments from their Air Filtration system. They filter the air around the areas where they handle dry pigments so that their workers are not exposed to pigment dust. Rather than sending any pigments into the landfill, Gamblin paint makers recycle them into "Gamblin Torrit Grey" paint. Using this paint, the company hosts a yearly competition with the winner receiving \$500 of Gamblin Artists' materials. To learn more about the contest, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/cz78qj>

STUDIO SAFETY

Gamblin also offers several newsletters on their site. One in particular deals with studio and paint safety. You can read it here: <http://www.gamblincolors.com/newsletters/studionotes13.html>

WEEKEND WITH THE MASTERS

From September 9 through 13 **American Artist's Weekend With the Masters Workshop & Conference** will bring together some of the top artists working today for four full days of instruction and discussion centered on the current renaissance of representational art in America, and where we see it headed in the future. To learn more about the instructors and special guests teaching and presenting at



Weekend With the Masters, as well as the workshops, classes, demonstrations, lectures, and evening events being offered, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/cvwaar>

NORTHLIGHT BOOK SALE

Northlight is offering a Spring Cleaning sale with discounts of up to 80% on some books. Visit their site to see what's available. <http://tinyurl.com/dcp4x4>

RANJANI SHETTAR

From March 21, 2009 to July 7, 2009, the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)** will present **New Work: Ranjani Shettar**, the first exhibition on the West Coast of internationally recognized Indian artist Ranjani Shettar.

The exhibition will include two works crafted specifically for SFMOMA. **Waiting for June (2008-9)** is made of wrought iron, and **Sing along (2008-9)** is composed of a steel armature wrapped in a dyed black muslin cloth and glued with tamarind kernel powder paste. Three large-scale woodcut prints made in 2006-



Ranjani Shettar, "Sing along", 2008-9; Stainless steel, muslin cloth dyed in kasimi, gum arabic and lacquer, Courtesy of the artist and Talwar Gallery New York / New Delhi

will be on view. Additionally, a group of five sculptures reminiscent of basketry and woven from strips of used auto bodies will be installed in the SFMOMA Rooftop Garden when it opens on May 10.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

The Detroit Institute of Art has a reputation for great art and for presenting great live music. You can experience music from around the world and around Detroit at Friday Night Live! The DIA is open late every Friday night with live music, art-making workshops, drawing in the galleries, guided tours and much more. Activities take place from 6 to 10 p.m. and are FREE with museum admission.

<http://tinyurl.com/ddwys3>

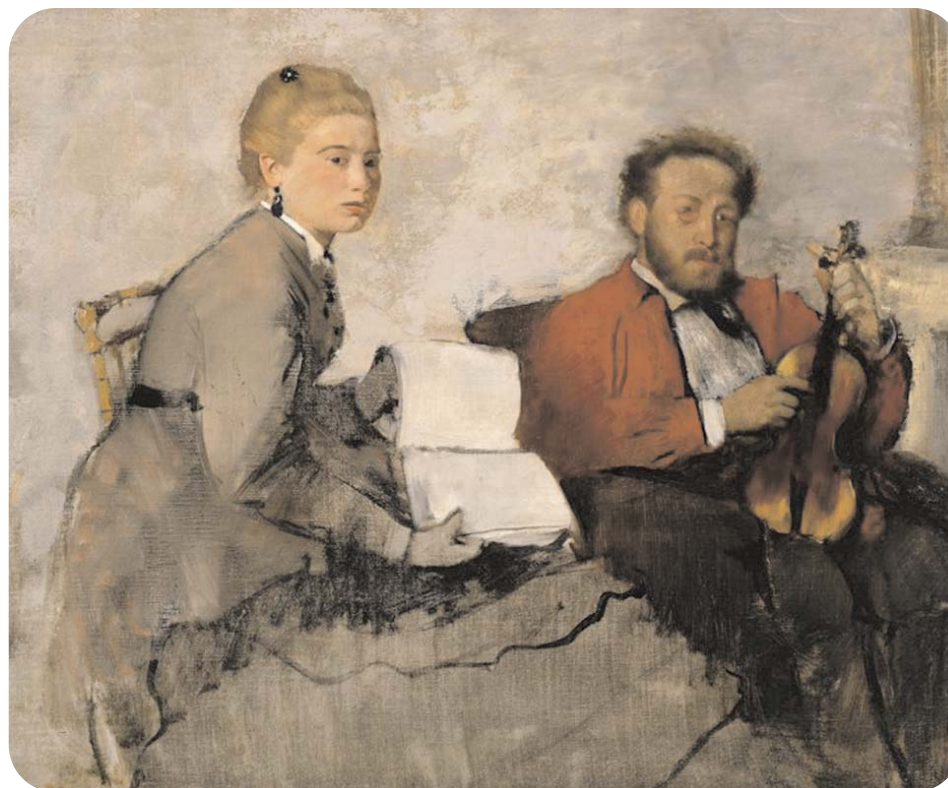
LAND OF THE HOPI AND NAVAJO

The **Arizona-Sonora Desert**

Museum is hosting a week-long tour called Land of the Hopi and Navajo. Details can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/ddbt31>

DEGAS AND THE HYDE COLLECTION

The **Hyde Collection's** summer 2009 exhibition, *Degas & Music*, marks the first time The Hyde Collection will host an exhibition of



Edgar Degas, "Violinist and Young Woman Violiniste et jeune femme tenant un cahier de musique", c. 1871, Oil and crayon on canvas, Detroit Institute of Arts

the works of Edgar Degas. The exhibition is also an art-world first as no other display of Degas' work has exclusively focused on the artist's fascination with music. Approximately thirty-five paintings and other works from major national and international collections, as well as The

Hyde's own holdings, will be included in the Degas & Music exhibition. On exhibit 12 July through 18 October, 2009.

Approximately thirty-five paintings and other works from major national and international collections, as well as The Hyde's own holdings, will be included in the Degas & Music exhibition. The Museum has received loan confirmations of Degas' works from such prestigious art museums as Musée d'Orsay in Paris, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and the National Gallery in Washington, DC. Other Degas works in the exhibition include pieces from the Art

Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Detroit Institute of Arts; and the Clark Art Institute. <http://tinyurl.com/cxjnzj>

WORD OF THE DAY ETCHING

The act or process of making designs or pictures on a metal plate, glass, etc., by the corrosive action of an acid instead of by a burin.

"Art is a technique of communication. The image is the most complete technique of all communication"

Claes Oldenburg

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Draw your favorite coffee cup in oil pastel / crayons. Five minutes. ☞