

Post-Impressionism

"I had wrung Impressionism dry, and I finally came to the conclusion that I knew neither how to paint nor how to draw. In a word, Impressionism was a blind alley, as far as I was concerned." Renoir

"The Impressionists study color exclusively, but without freedom... They heed only the eye and neglect the mysterious centers of thought." Paul Gauguin

"The Neo-Impressionist were bringing their witness to the great struggle which is taking place between the workers and capitalism" Paul Signac

Artists:	George Seurat	Signac	Vuillard
	Paul Cezanne	Bernard	Sisley
	Vincent van Gogh	Bonnard	Denis
	Paul Gauguin		
	Henri Toulouse-Lautrec		

Post-Impressionism Concepts:

Subject Matter / Content:

- one of the central investigations: *how to make a truly modern art?* search for the *modern* found in the marginal areas of life and city
- view of human beings relationship to society changed
- different subject matter than the Impressionists: urban, detached, individual
- political sub-text to work (working class/lower classes/underworld of cities - the ragged edges of industrial revolution's cities)
- fascination with foreign (primitive) cultures/peoples
- disturbing undercurrents to work (and society)

Formal Considerations Stylistic Characteristics:

- art begins to concentrate on formal and stylistic aspects of art making
- issues of artist's style, technique and form become central
- innovation and diversity in subject matter and technique
- subject matter constructed in some invented order - stylization of subject matter
- move away from naturalism and realism to experimentation with primary elements of art, as well as style, technique and the world of imagination
- imposition of a personal view on reality
- spontaneity is replaced by order

General Characteristics of Post Impressionism:

- 1: variety of styles of painting:**
 - paintings become formal exercises rather than records of visual reality
 - the artist's individual technique becomes a preoccupation
- 2: variety of influences on artists styles:**
 - medieval art (Bernard, Gauguin)
 - Japanese art - prints (Van Gogh)
 - commercial art and posters (Toulouse-Lautrec)
 - exotic cultures of Tahiti (Gauguin)
- 3: political and social undercurrents to work:**
 - fascination with peoples that are not modern (Bretons, Tahitians)
 - alienation of modern cities and societies
- 4: varied subject matter of painting:**
 - the exotic
 - the fringes of modern cities
 - the fringes of night life