

The Individual

Other Modern & Contemporary Artists

"Modern Art" is a term applied to much European-American art made in the early and middle decades of the 20th century.

Some of its central principles are self expression, originality, powerful visual composition, and truth to materials.

Modern Art is constituted of many styles and movements, including Cubism, Abstract Expressionism, Op Art, and Pop Art, just to name a few.

Even though Modernist artists valued individual self expression, they drew inspiration from the work of earlier artists.

Office at Night

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Edward Hopper painted "Office at Night" in 1940.

Notice the striking organization of geometric shapes within his painting.

Lake George Barns

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Georgia O'Keeffe was a well-known Modernist artist of the early and mid 20th century.

She was a graduate teaching assistant (TA) at Columbia University working under Arthur Welsey Dow. Based on his studies of Japanese art, Dow wrote an influential art education book called "Composition" in 1899.

City Night

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Her paintings are characterized by dramatic compositions.

O'Keeffe lived part of the year in New York City and part of the year in New Mexico.

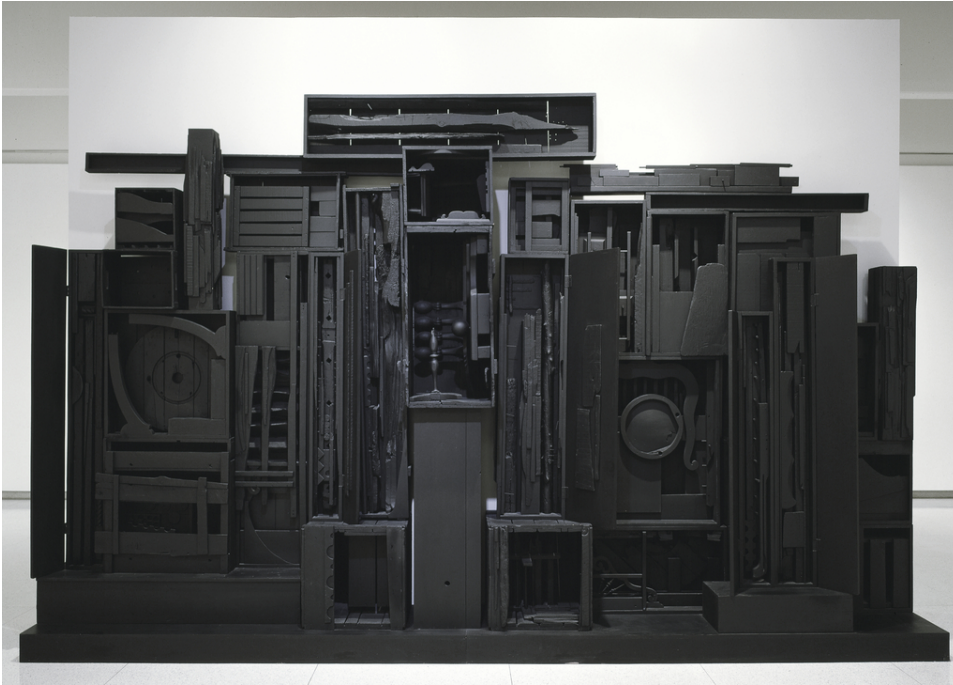
Pedernal - From the Ranch #1



She organized the shapes and forms of bones she found on her ranch near Taos, New Mexico into extraordinary compositions.



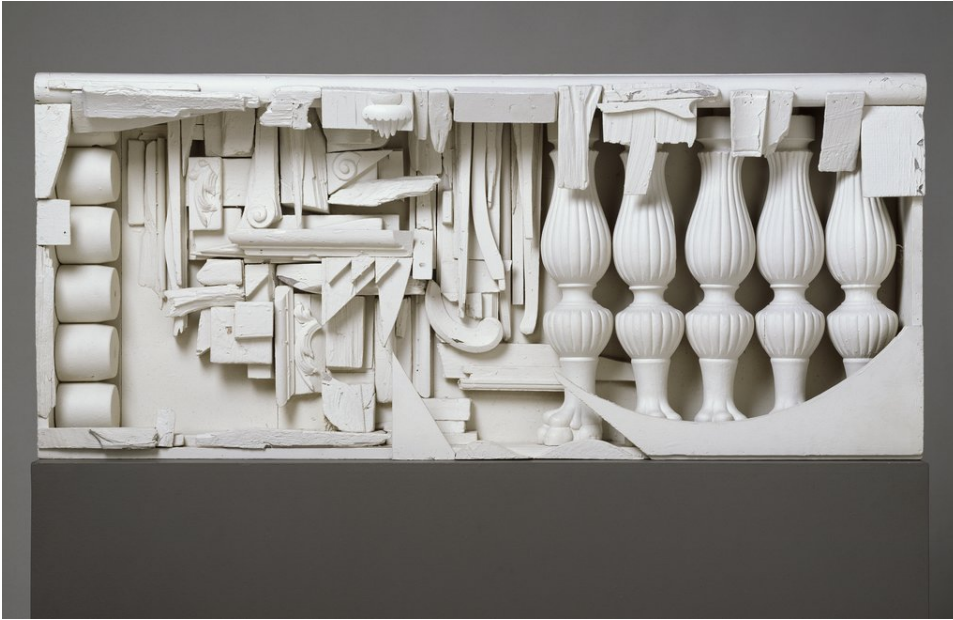
Another Modernist, Mark Rothko, painted floating areas of color. He painted this large work (6' 9" high)in 1955.



Louise Nevelson assembled sculptures from found objects. By painting all the forms one overall color, she focused the viewer's attention on how the forms were arranged.

Case with Five Balusters

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Nevelson unified her sculptures by painting them one solid color. She made this work in 1959.

Young Tree VI

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Nevelson made this sculpture later in her life, in 1971.

Tahkt-I-Sulayman Variation II

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



The Modernist, Frank Stella, made this painting in 1969.

The Diner

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



George Segal's sculptures show us glimpses of everyday life.

He created settings made of objects from the everyday world populated by plaster casts of real people.

Earth Day

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Robert Rauschenberg often used photographs from newspapers and magazines in his works.

16 Jackies

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Andy Warhol is famous for his works using images of celebrities, like this work with 16 images of Jackie Kennedy.



Warhol made this iconic image of Marilyn Monroe in 1967.

untitled [Green Pea] from Campbell's Soup I



Warhol also showed us the everyday in his art.

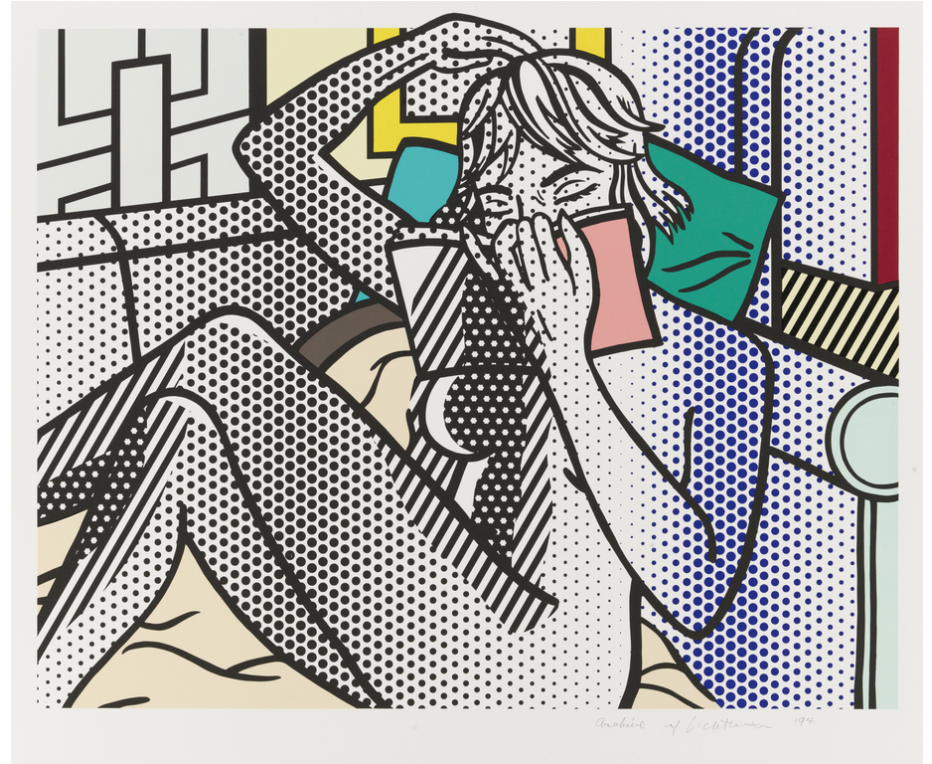
Even though individual Modernists produced their own distinctive, individual styles of art, they drew influences from earlier artists.

The Birthday Party



Edward Hopper (right) was influenced by the work of John Singer Sargent (left).

Girl Walking



Roy Lichtenstein (right) studied with Reginald Marsh (left).

Wounded Beast



Helen Frankenthaler (right) studied with Rufino Tamayo (left).

The Chair



The influence of Franz Kline's work (left) on Aaron Siskind's (right) is evident.

Work by Prominent African American Artists

African American artists were prominent among the Modernists, and continue to be important contemporary artists today.



Elizabeth Catlett was born in Washington, DC in 1915, but lived much of her life in Mexico. Her linocut "Sharecropper" was produced at the Taller de Grafica Popular (Workshop of Graphic Artists) in Mexico City.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



Charles White made this print, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" in 1959.

Corner Pocket

The Individual
by Mary Erickson

Benny Andrews made this print in 1989.



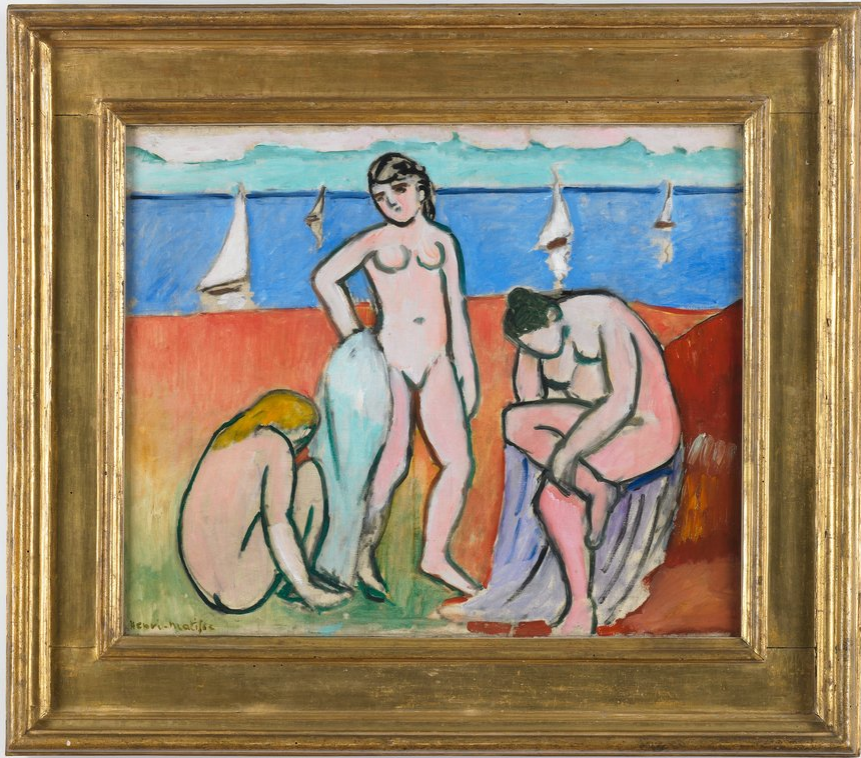
Art Influences

Many African American artists were influenced by Modernism. Some were also indfleuneced by folk art, traditional African art, and even other art forms, like dance and music..



Jacob Lawrence (right) was influenced by the flat shapes and colors of Cubism (left).

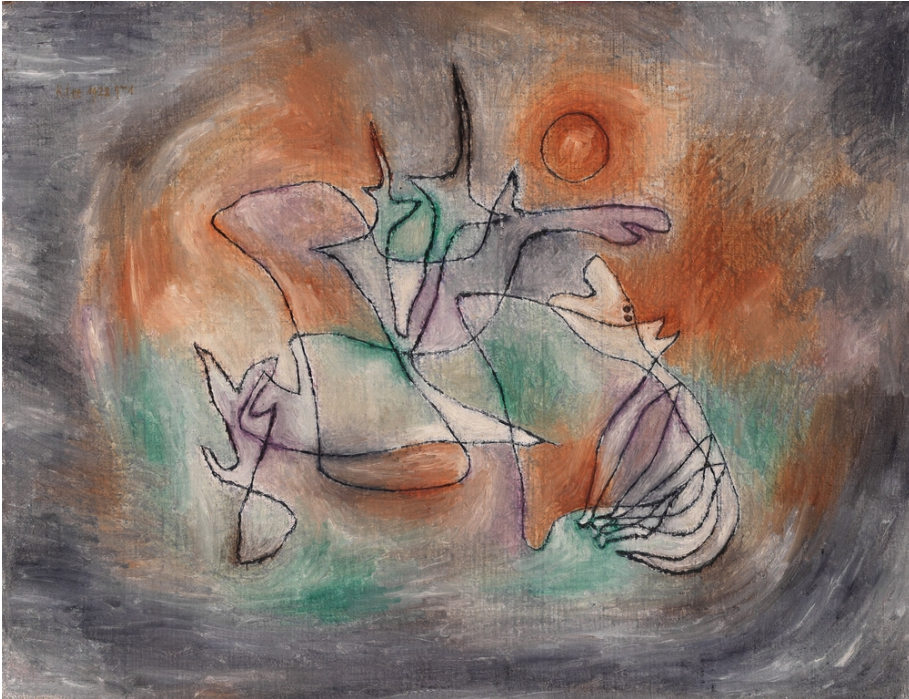
Three Bathers



One can see the influence of Matisse (left) in the art of Bob Thompson (right).

Howling Dog

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



How do you think Sam Gillam (work on right) might have been influenced by the earlier work

of Paul Klee (on the left)?

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House of Ancient Memory

The Individual
by Mary Erickson

Betye Saar made this work in 1989. What art do you think might have inspired her?



untitled from Crossroads

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by Mary Erickson



Betye Saar's daughter, Alison Saar, made this sculpture the same year. Can you see any possible influence from her mother?



Carrie Mae Weems made this photographic series..

Soundsuit

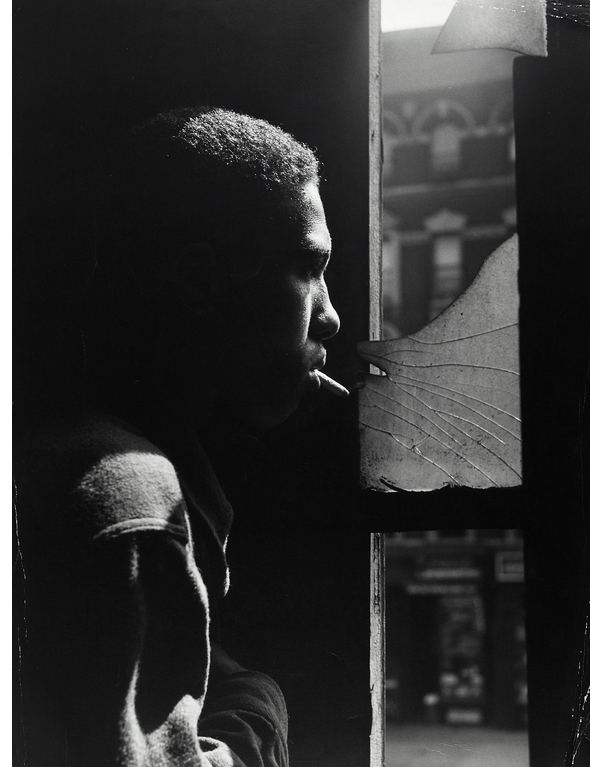
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Before becoming a photographer, Weems studied to be a dancer. One of her teachers was African American artist/dancer, Nick Cave.

Untitled

The Individual by Mary Erickson



Pioneering African American photographers before Carrie May Weems include James VanDerZee (photograph made in 1932) and Gordan Parks (photograph in 1948).

Ampersand

The Individual
by Mary Erickson



What earlier artworks do you think might have influenced African American artist Martin Puryear?