

YEAR 8

FAUVISM - EXPRESSIONISM

Fauvism Key Knowledge

- 1. Fauvism is the name applied to the work produced by a group of artists from around 1905 to 1910, which is characterised by strong colours and fierce brushwork.
- 2. The name les fauves (‘the wild beasts’) was coined by the critic Louis Vauxcelles when he saw the work of Henri Matisse and André Derain in an exhibition in 1905. The paintings Derain and Matisse exhibited were the result of a summer spent working together in the South of France and were made using bold, non-naturalistic colours (often applied directly from the tube), and wild loose dabs of paint.
- 3. The forms of the subjects were also simplified making their work appear quite abstract. Other like-minded artists associated with fauvism included Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy, Georges Rouault, and Maurice de Vlaminck.
- 4. The leader of the Fauves was considered to be Henri Matisse. He began studying for a law degree but after a short illness he found a love for art. He had a long career in the arts and after being diagnosed with cancer in 1941 he developed a technique of ‘drawing with scissors’ to create his famous cut out series.

Expressionism Key Knowledge

- 1. Expressionism refers to art in which the image of reality is distorted in order to make it expressive of the artist’s inner feelings or ideas.
- 2. In expressionist art, colour in particular can be highly intense and non-naturalistic, brushwork is typically free and paint application tends to be generous and highly textured. Expressionist art tends to be emotional and sometimes mystical. It can be seen as an extension of Romanticism.
- 3. Although the term expressionist can be applied to artworks from any era, it is generally applied to art of the twentieth century. It may be said to start with Vincent Van Gogh and then form a major stream of modern art embracing, among many others, Edvard Munch, fauvism and Henri Matisse, Georges Rouault, the Brücke and Blaue Reiter groups, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoschka, Paul Klee, Max Beckmann, most of Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland, Francis Bacon, Alberto Giacometti, Jean Dubuffet, Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer and the neo-expressionism of the 1980s.
- 4. The term is often specifically associated with modern German art (also referred to as German expressionism), particularly the Brücke and Blaue Reiter groups.
- 5. After World War II an abstract form of expressionism developed in America, known as abstract expressionism.
- 6. Wassily Kandinsky was a leading figure in the Expressionism art movement. He developed many different styles of artwork from realistic form to abstract. He included a variety of techniques in his work including pointillism, after being inspired by Claude Monet’s haystacks and abstract forms using skills of synaesthesia.



Artist Profile – Henri Matisse

Born: 31 December 1869 in France  
Died: 3 November 1954 (aged 84) in France

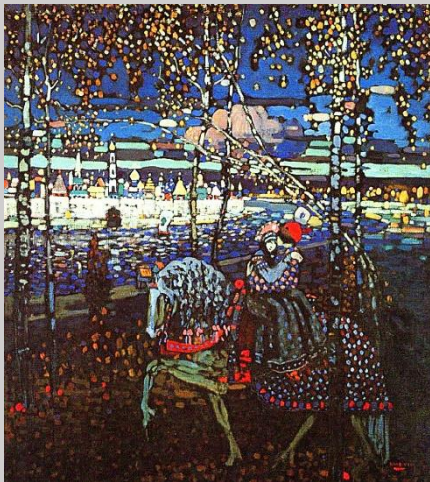
Matisse was a French artist, known for both his use of colour and his fluid and original draughtsmanship. He was a draughtsman, printmaker, and sculptor, but is known primarily as a painter. Matisse is commonly regarded, along with Pablo Picasso, as one of the artists who best helped to define the revolutionary developments in the visual arts throughout the opening decades of the twentieth century, responsible for significant developments in painting and sculpture.

Henri Matisse – Composition on blue bottom, 1951

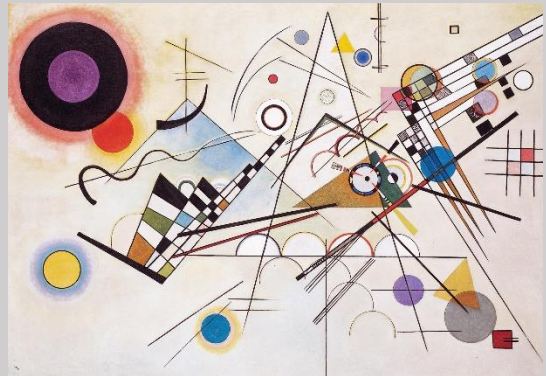


Henri Matisse - Les toits de Collioure (The roofs of Collioure), 1905

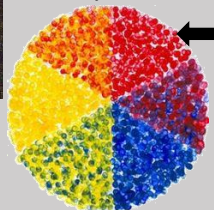
Drawing with scissors was a technique developed by Henri Matisse.



Wassily Kandinsky – Couple on Horseback, 1907



Wassily Kandinsky – composition VII (8), 1923



Example of Pointillism – The technique relies on the eye and mind of the viewer to blend the colour spots into a fuller range of tones



Artist Profile – Wassily Kandinsky  
(Va-suh-lee Kan-din-skee)

Born: 16 December 1866, Russia  
Died: 13 December 1944 (aged 77)

Kandinsky is a Russian painter and art theorist. He is generally credited as the pioneer of abstract art. Kandinsky's creation of abstract work followed a long period of development and maturation of intense thought based on his artistic experiences. He called this devotion to inner beauty, fervour of spirit, and spiritual desire inner necessity; it was a central aspect of his art.

Key vocabulary

Critic	A person who judges the merits of literary or artistic works, especially one who does so professionally.
Critique	Evaluate (a theory or practice) in a detailed and analytical way.
Abstract	Relating to or denoting art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but rather seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, colours, and textures.
Pointillism	A technique of neo-impressionist painting using tiny dots of various pure colours, which become blended in the viewer's eye. It was developed by Seurat with the aim of producing a greater degree of luminosity and brilliance of colour.
Symbol	A thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.
Synaesthesia	Synaesthesia (or synesthesia) is a neurological condition in which the stimulation of a sense (like touch or hearing) leads involuntarily to the triggering of another sense (like sight or taste)
Line	A line in art is defined as a point moving in space, and it's one of the seven elements of art (line, colour, shape, form, texture, value, space). It is one of the most crucial elements, as everything begins with just a simple dot in space, that transforms into lines and then drawings.
Pattern	A repeated decorative design.
Composition	Composition is the arrangement of elements within a work of art.
Observation	To look closely at something or someone.
Observational Art	Observational art is easily defined as drawing or painting from life. Examples would include sketching a bowl of fruit (still life), drawing from a model (figurative), or drawing a street scene (landscape). The image is not taken from either a photograph or the artist’ imagination, but from real life observation. Traditionally the subject matter is rendered as accurately as possible. Typically, most observational work is done pencil, charcoal or other drawing mediums but can include collage and painting.

