

Docent Training 2/16/15-KIA Collection

John Singleton Copley (1738-1815)-Unusual example of American artist painting a history painting. History painting (scenes of Greek, Roman mythology, Christian scenes). Allegorical in nature.

Seymour Joseph Guy (1824-1910) Called “The Little Master” of American Genre painting. He established himself as the first genre painter of children. Respected for his technical ability and knowledge of science of painting. Works fell out of favor toward the end of his life as tastes changed at the beginning of the 20th century.

John James Audubon (1785-1851)-Birds of America, printed between 1827 and 1838, 435 life-sized, hand-colored, from hand-engraved plates. Over 700 North American bird species featured

Paulanship (1885-1966) Background: well trained artist, including Rome and Paris. Traveled extensively through Italy and Greece. Interested in classical subjects (Neoclassical influence). Simplification of line and details. Worked in marble and bronze but mostly bronze.

Chaim Gross (1902-1919), b. Austria, came to U.S in 1921. Also taught printmaking and sculpture. Displayed with other Jewish artists like Walkowitz and Zorach. Did series of acrobat and dancer themes. Mother and Child also popular theme.

Paul Clemens (1911-1992) American

- famous for sports subject matter in the 30s but turned toward Hollywood film star portraits in the 40s
- after WWII made lithographs of city scenes and landscapes to emphasize his serious interest in social problems
- genre paintings

Mark Tobey (1890-1976) American

- ‘White Writing’ technique—overlay white or light-colored calligraphic symbols on abstract field composed of thousands of small interwoven brushstrokes---this ‘all over’ painting style was made most famous by Jackson Pollock
- traveled around the world and studied Zen painting, haiku poetry, and calligraphy and became member of Baha’i Faith
- work became more abstract and contemplative as time went on

Ruth Duckworth (1919-2009) British

- abstract sculpture with surrealist undertones, swirls and cloud patterns, ceramic and bronze, not functional
- taught at University of Chicago
- work went from small and abstract but delicate to large, abstract and sculptural that suggested pebbles and rocks

Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946) American

- emphasize artist understanding of vision and need to specialize and modernize
- quality of space, time and light and how these three interact is present in all of his works in all mediums
- only through experimentation could artists and humans find a way to answer humanity’s needs

James Rosenquist (1933-present)

- earned his living as a billboard painter from 1957-1960→applied this to his art by enlarging and fragmenting images
- Surrealism and irrational juxtapositions
- Referenced aspects of mass media such as mass-produced goods, magazines, and films in ways that made him into a key figure in the development of Pop Art

Nicholas Krushenick (1929-1999) American

- served in WWII and studied art after war and opened artists’ cooperative called Brata Gallery in New York
- style used to be soft abstract expressionist but changed to have bolder colors and more illustrative while maintaining abstract figurative forms (forerunners of pop art)

Victor Vasarely (1906-1997) French

- early on lived in many places and was drawn more toward sciences than arts; 1927 made a dramatic decision to stop studying medicine and pursue art

-years of scientific training gave him sense of objectivity and scientific method
-60s developed 'Alphabet Plastique'—grid based system that established relationships between forms and colors, each painting is based on 15 root forms derived from the circle, square and triangle with endless permutations and variations of colors and forms to create individual works

Julian Stanczak (1928--) American

-born in eastern Poland, at beginning of WWII forced into Siberian labor camp and lost use of his right arm, escaped and joined Polish army-in-exile in Persia, deserted army and spent teenage years in Polish refugee camp in Uganda, learned to write and paint left-handed, 1950 move to US
-repeating form to create manifestations of his visual experiences, looking at his work is an experience and is based upon structures of color

Ellen Lanyon (1926-2013) American

-BFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago
-blend of realism and surreal featuring animals interacting with objects in unexpected ways

Miriam Schapiro (1930-1992) American

-struggle with female role in art world and tries to find/construct the contemporary female place in the art world by breaking traditional boundaries while maintaining certain aspects of femininity
-femmes—traditionally recognized female domestic materials or activities ideas incorporated into art
-autobiographical figural compositions, acrylic paint with fabric—interest in theater and dance imagery, figures less abstract, appear alone

Marcia Wood

-like sculpture over painting because there was no illusion of space, one could actually put their hands on the piece and understand the space it took up
-brings ideas of nature (human figures and landscape) and architecture together as large space public sculptures
-did not like current architecture and made it her challenge to design sculpture that would please her and meet demands of outdoor public spaces

Robert Arneson (1930-1992) American

-inspired by expressionist Peter Voulkos who was inspired by Picasso, this challenged him to push the boundaries of traditional sculpture and made nonfunctional clay pieces
-used idea of portrait to present universal concept and feelings even though they were ironic and humorous

Francis Bacon-(1909-1992)-self-taught artist, most scenes show a human figure and suggest alienation, violence and suffering

H.C. Westermann-(1922-1981)-printmaker and sculptor, commentary on militarism and materialism, sculptures incorporated traditional carpentry technique

Alex Katz (1927--) American

-simplified portraits and landscapes, examines the way the three-dimensional world is represented
-landscapes were views of New York and surrounding areas in Soho
-key source of inspiration were Japanese woodcut prints specifically by Kitagawa Utamaro
-prefiguration of Pop Art