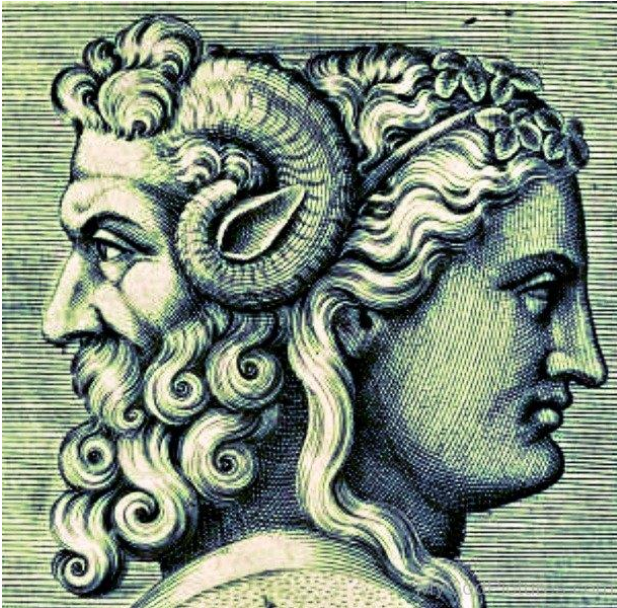
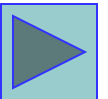


BIG Changes: 1870 ca - 1990 ca

Modernism and Postmodernism



The Roman God *Janus* looks backward and forward at the same time



Timeline of Generations

<http://www.careerplanner.com/Career-Articles/Generations.cfm>

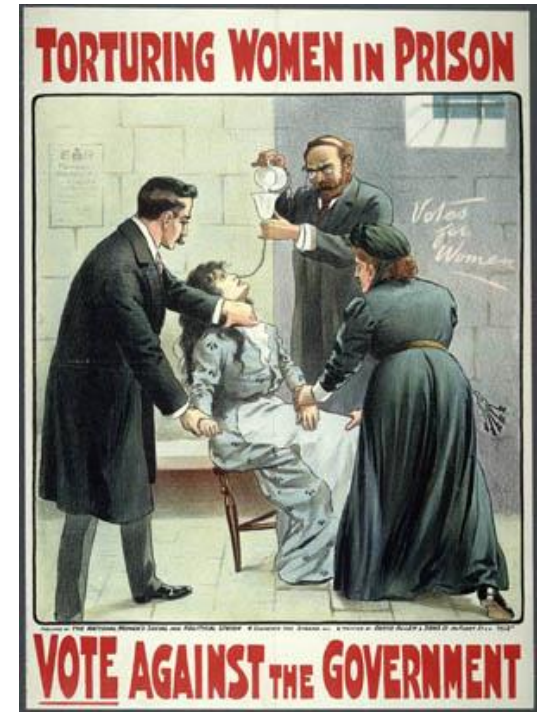
Generation Name	Births Start	Births End	Youngest Age Today*	Oldest Age Today*
The Lost Generation - The Generation of 1914	1890	1915	101	126
The Interbellum Generation	1901	1913	103	115
The Greatest Generation	1910	1924	92	106
The Silent Generation	1925	1945	71	91
Baby Boomers (I & II)	1946	1964	52	70
Generation X (Baby Bust)	1965	1979	37	51
Generation Y - Millennials Gen Next	1980	1995	21	36
Generation Z	1996	2010	6	20
Gen Alpha	2011	2025	1	5



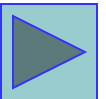
The 19th Century

The 19thc is not without its own **BIG changes** including

1. Suffragettes
2. Feminism (Mary Wollstonecraft, George Eliot)++
3. Invention of anesthetic for surgery
4. Railways
5. Manufacturing (machines that make machines)
6. Gatling gun
7. Photography
8. Phonograph (originally used for dictation)



Force-feeding hunger striking suffragettes



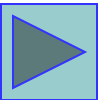
The Shift to Modernism

Earlier ideas, beliefs, values, convictions are **reconstituted**

The surprising **juxtapositions** and **superimpositions** of ideas never before associated



Picasso: *Three Musicians* (1921)



Modernism & Postmodernism

Oppressive



Unexpected

Shocking

Incongruence

Startling

Liberating

Innovative



Exhilarating

Illogical

Fearful

Mystifying

Surprising

Violent

Fragile

Menacing

TED

Recognizable elements either resist meaning, or produce meaning in unexpected ways



How Pervasive?

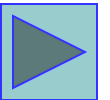
Literature, art, music, architecture that **breaks away** from earlier (classical) **forms**, and from the **logic and rationalism** behind those forms **but** still Retains traditional elements of the past.

Presents as shockingly illogical and surreal, but may or may not be so.

The juxtaposition (or superimposition) of unexpected incongruences. In this limited sense, **like Metaphysical wit**.



Flatiron Building, NYC, 1902



The Technology of War

Mustard Gas (WW I)
Atomic Bomb (WW II)
Napalm (Vietnam)

Nazi death camps and other “ethnic cleansings”
(Bosnia, Rawanda)

Transistor Radios, Mercedes Benz, GPS, Radio, TV, Computers
Cell phone / tablets

Robots



For worse



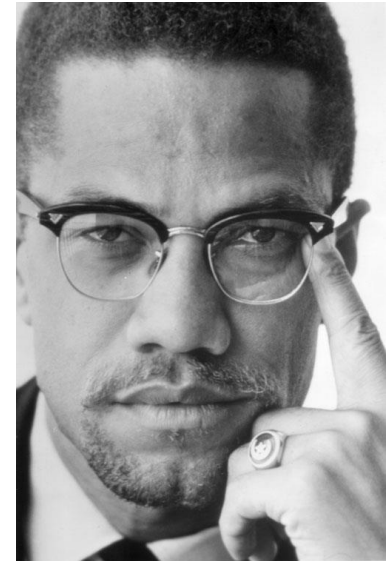
Racial Segregation & Musical Synergy

Rock & Roll

Jazz

Martin Luther King

Black Panthers



The “rights” movements:

1. civil
2. women
3. gay
4. Youth
5. Anti-war



The Technology of Medicine

Open heart surgery

Vaccinations

Birth Control

Organ / facial transplants

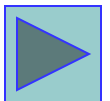
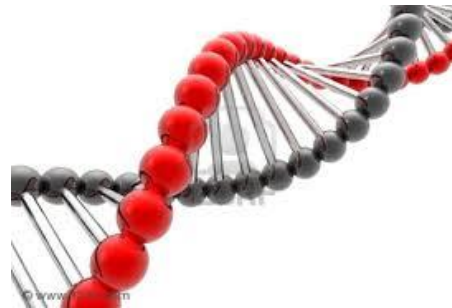
Genetic manipulation

Cloning

DNA mapping

Cyborgs

Thalidomide



Political Change: Peace & Violence

Embryonic Terrorism

Jonestown

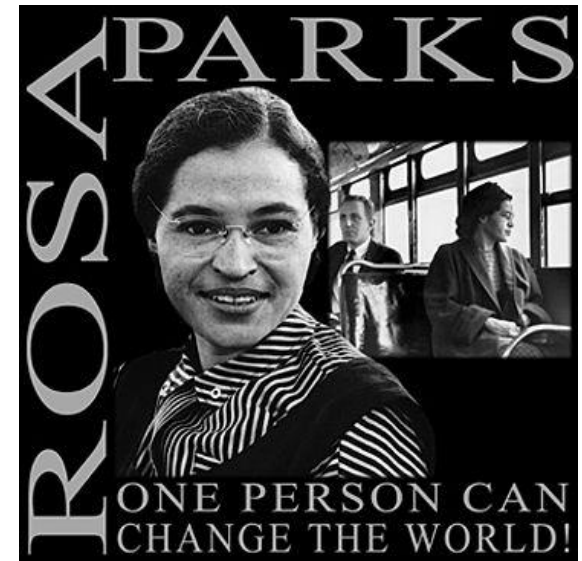
Wako



Hippies

“Rights” movements

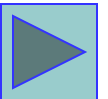
Martin Luther **King** Malcolm X Betty Friedan



First World Wealth & Global Starvation

Corporate Globalization

Wealth amid Starvation



New Ideas

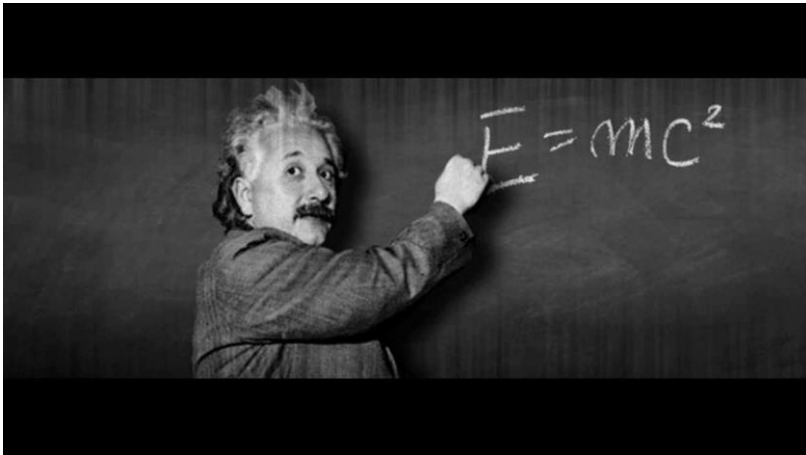
The “invention” of youth and youth culture

The “invention” of psychology & sociology



Time dilation. What?

<http://www.emc2-explained.info/Time-Dilation/#.WDKLHlxejHs>

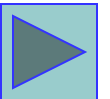


What is Postmodernism?

Check out this [postmodern musical performance by John Cage](#) in 1960 ca. The performance starts at timestamp 5:37.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSulycqZH-U>



What is Postmodernism?

Literally “after” modernism. Dates vary, but approx WWII -ish forward.

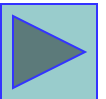
Skepticism about (and resistance to) any expected/predicted **coherence of form or content** associated with the movements & trends in modernism.



Further distanced from conventionality and precedent than Modernism.

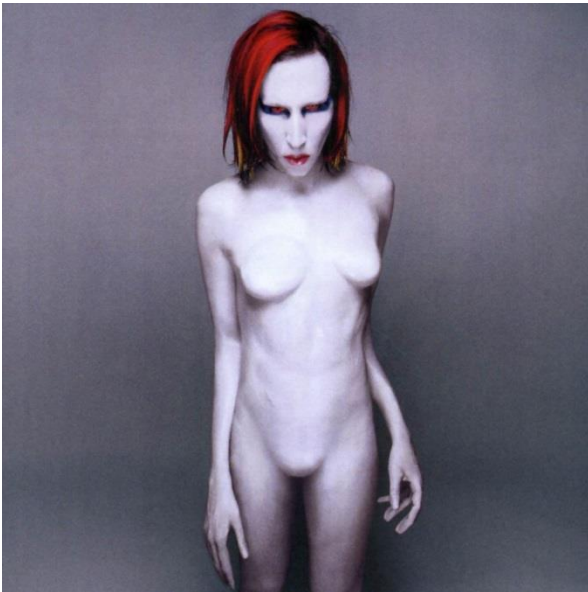
Sometimes a **retreat into the self**, **pseudo-solipsism** or alternatively, into **nihilism**. Sometimes an **apocalyptic** visions. **Alienation**.

In literary studies, a **shift away from textual analysis to self awareness of criticism**. The rise and triumph of a shift of focus toward literary theory and away from literary text. (A form of introspection.)

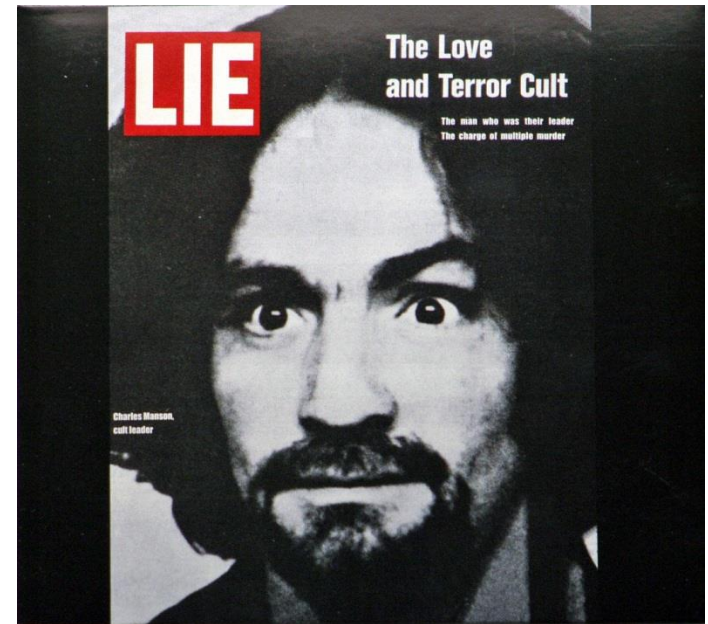


Troubling Questions

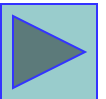
Where is meaning?
What if there is no meaning?



Charles Manson



Charles Manson



Examples in Art



Salvador Dalí
Soft Construction with Boiled Beans: Premonition of Civil War



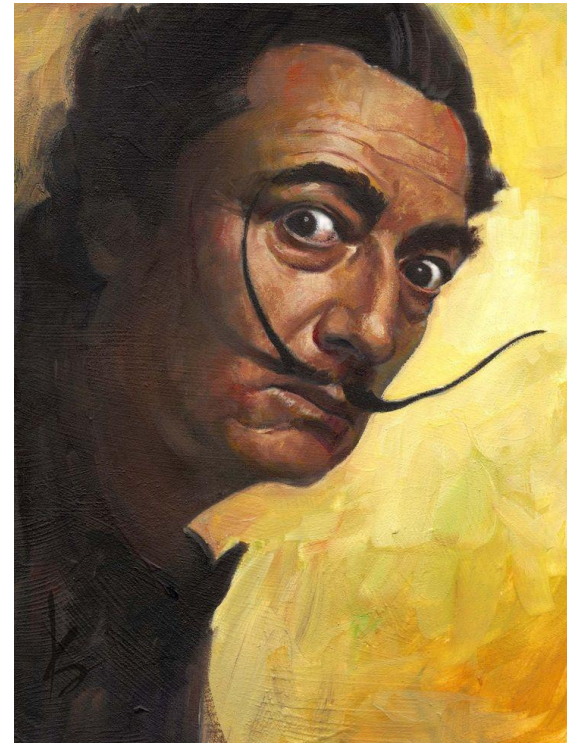
Pablo Picasso
The Weeping Woman



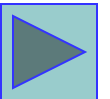
Examples in Art: Introspection



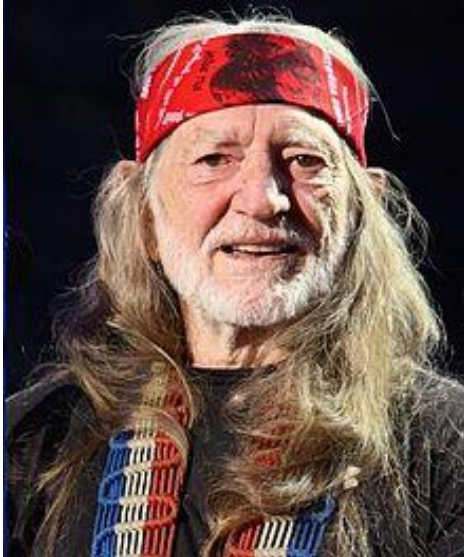
Andy Warhol
Camouflage Self Portrait



Salvador Dali
Camouflage Self Portrait



More Responses

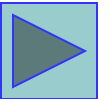


Willie Nelson
Down-home Authenticity

Apocalyptic Visions (Nightmares)



Salvador Dali
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

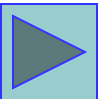
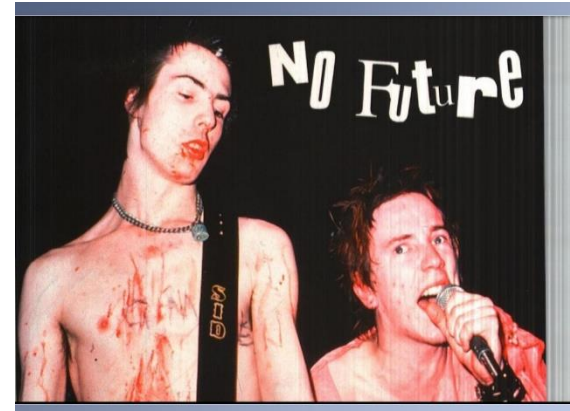


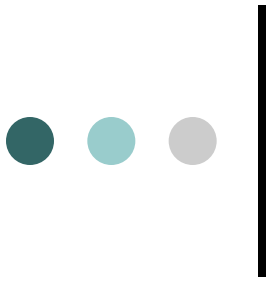


Responses

Violence / anger / angst

Fragmentation





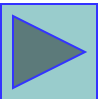
Responses

Breakdown of form

Breakdown of language

Breakdown of law and order

Breakdown of congruence



Literature Before the Shift

Rigidity of

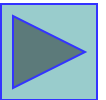
1. form
2. rhyme
3. meter & syllabic count

But ... **rigidity** with a **proliferation of variants**—i.e.: in the many sonnet forms.

New genres get invented (ie the novel), but writers integrate much of what's come before as well.

Creation starts with **convention** + some **invention** of the new.

So what happens?



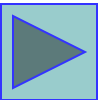
Shifts into Modernism & Postmodernism

In poetry, burgeoning of

1. radically new & different forms & variations
2. little or no end rhyme
3. cadence/periods (sentences, phrase, clauses) **not** lines

Now “creation” is a hybrid (mashup) of recognizable fragments of the old with new ideas in surprisingly “illogical” ways.

Sense of loss with the past creates some melancholy (J. Flatley) in modernism, but a deepening of that sentiment to introspection and even despair in postmodernism.



T.S Eliot: The Waste Land

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, **for you know only**
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket **no relief**,
And the **dry stone no sound of water**. Only
There is shadow under this red rock,
(Come in under the shadow of this red rock),
And I will show you something different from either
Your shadow at morning striding behind you
Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you;
I will show you fear in a handful of dust.



T. S. Eliot reads *The Waste Land*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqvhMeZ2PIY>



Alan Ginsberg: *Howl*

I saw the best minds of my generation
destroyed by madness, starving hysterical
naked,

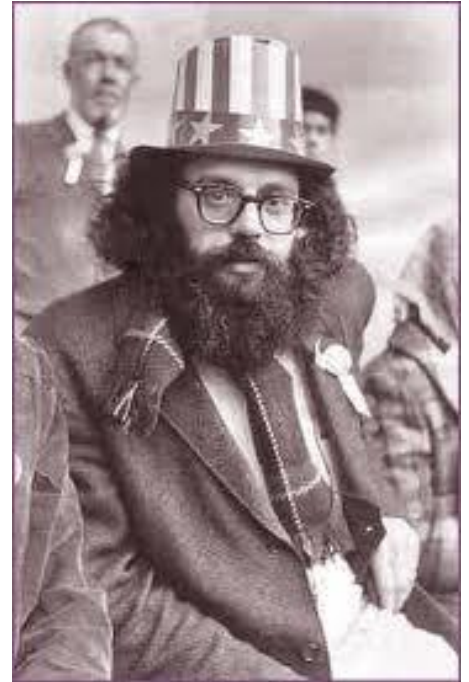
dragging themselves through the negro
streets at dawn looking for an angry fix,

angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient
heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the
machinery of night,

who poverty and tatters and hollow-eyed and high sat
up smoking in the supernatural darkness of cold-water
flats floating across the tops of cities contemplating
jazz ...

Alan Ginsberg reads *Howl*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkNp56UZax4>

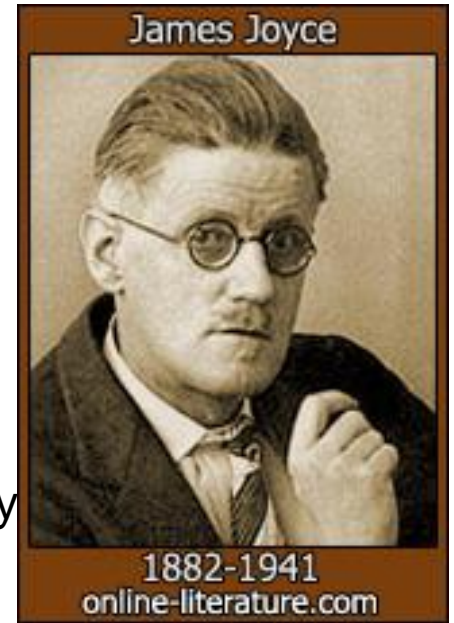


From Finnegans Wake

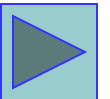
James Joyce

riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodius vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs.

Sir Tristram, violer d'amores, fr'over the short sea, had passen-core rearrived from North Armorica on this side the scraggy isthmus of Europe Minor to wielderfight his penisolate war: nor had topsawyer's rocks by the stream Oconeex exaggerated themselfe to Laurens County's gorgios while they went doublin their mumperall the time: nor avoice from a fire bellowsed mishe mishe to tauftauf thuartpeatrick: not yet, though venissoon after, had akidscad buttended a bland old isaac: not yet, though all's fair in vanessy, were sosie sesthers wroth with twone nathandjoe.



James Joyce reads from *Finnegans Wake*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtOQi7xspRc>



Joan Baez: *Oh, Brother!*

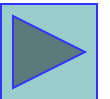
Alienation

Your lady gets her power
From the goddess and the stars
You get yours from the trees and the brooks
And a little from life on Mars
And I've known you for a good long while
And would you kindly tell me, mister
How in the name of the Father and the Son
Did I come to be your sister?



Joan Baez singing *Oh, Brother*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gN2bjDl8IV0&list=PL9218B5E2946B1281>



Where to From Here?

