



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: Expressionism: from Kirchner to Kandinsky and Kokoschka (1905-1939)

Course code

Q00017434

Course date

Start: 20/11/24

End: 11/12/24

Number of classes

4 sessions

Timetable

Wed 20th Nov, 13:00 to 15:00

Wed 27th Nov, 13:00 to 15:00

Wed 4th Dec, 13:00 to 15:00

Wed 11th Dec, 13:00 to 15:00

Tutor

Caroline Levisse

Fee range

Free to £29.60

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

In this short course, we will focus on Expressionism, a key art movement of the beginning of the 20th century. Starting around 1905 in Germany and Austria, with painters and sculptors such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rotluff, the expressionist style soon pervaded other art forms, such as cinema. Expressionist works of art were raw and energetic, shocking, sometimes dark and apocalyptic, sometimes light and spiritual, and always intensely free. If you have ever wondered what is Expressionism, how it started and developed, and why these artists painted in such a way, this course is for you!

Course description

Emerging in the first years of the 20th century in Germany and Austria as a small avant-garde movement, Expressionism was soon to spread to other art forms. By the 1920s, expressionist themes and styles could be seen in advertising and films. In this course, we will first come back on the roots of the Expressionist movement. We will see the importance of German medieval artists, from Grünewald to Dürer, as well as the influence of post-impressionist artists such as Van Gogh and Munch. We will then focus on several centres: Dresden with the group “The Bridge” (Kirchner, Schmidt-Rotluff, Nolde...), Munich with “The Blue Rider” (Kandinsky, Munch, Marc, Macke, Jawlensky...), and Vienna with Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele. We will see a great variety of artists, subjects and styles. Some will be well-known, other less so, such as the “primitive” sculptures of Freundlich and the apocalyptic paintings of Meidner. With comparisons with the works of the French Fauvists and the Canadian Group of Seven, we will assess the particularity of the German and Austrian movement. As we consider the importance of the historical context that saw the development of Expressionism, we will discuss the impact of the First World War on these young artists. Finally, we will come back on the way the Expressionists were persecuted and denigrated as “degenerate” by the nazis in the 1930s and during the Second World War.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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expressionism-kirchner-kandinsky