

Modernism 1890/1900s-1960

The Universe is chaotic, ever changing.

Humans are *not* the center of the Universe, nor the planet's caregivers.

In the arts, Modernists seek new definitions of experience, new forms of showing creative expression, breaking away from the past in a sometime aggressive fashion.

Poetry: William Carlos Williams, e. e. cummings, T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound

Fiction: William Faulkner, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce

The Poet will:

- defy expectation
- promote fragmented imagery
- utilize multiple perspectives and/or multiple angles of one scene/object/event
- show lack of restraint
- suggest a form of harmony
- promote a lack of firm traditional formulas; rhyming may be used; free verse emphasized
- borrow from the cultural history of the past to reinvent perspective of present
- collage-like results; stream of consciousness encouraged

“Tradition is a guide and not a jailer.” —**W. Somerset Maugham**

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Postmodernism 1960-2000

Postmodernism began in the sixties/seventies.

PM felt Modernism did not react enough against status quo.

The chaos and violence of the world/universe cannot be explained.

Humans are being dehumanized by technology advancements.

In the arts, Postmodernists seek a stronger explanation of what makes individuals diverse.

Poetry: Lynda Hull, Susan Mitchell, Mark Doty, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney

Fiction: Kurt Vonnegut, John Updike

- lack of firm traditional formulas; rhyming may be used; free verse and experimental forms expected
- emphasis on the use of fragmented texts; fragmented scenes stitched together
- utilize memories with collage techniques, blurring scenes without firm distinction
- *can* mix genres, mix forms
- life and fiction often blur together (as in Magic Realism); hard to distinguish between reality & fantasy
- life is impossible to define in a satisfying manner; therefore, fiction and poetry should do the same
- promotes arbitrary meanings (for reader) along a common focus (by author)
- does not seek firm closure, nor firm interpretation of text; multiple interpretations are likely

Post-postmodernism 2000-2010

Post-postmodernism began in the new millennium. With advancing technology humans were belittled and even further dehumanized by industry and politics.

Even more so, the chaos and violence of the world/universe cannot be explained.

Poetry: William Blake (from 1700s), Susan Mitchell (*Rapture*)

Fiction: David Foster Wallace, Haruki Murakami, Zadie Smith

• **complexity valued over simplicity**

- lack of firm traditional formulas; rhyming may be used; free verse and experimental forms expected
- emphasis on the use of fragmented texts; fragmented scenes stitched together
- readers experience chaos through the text, structure of work
- life is chaotic: chaos is valued over structure: chaos has a structure in itself
- chaos is unexplainable; yet everyone tries to explain it
- **will mix genres**, will mix media
- **lacks any resolution**
- **lack clear, quick interpretation**
- emphasis on stream of conscious

MetaModern 2010-present

The term Metamodern was applied to the arts by Timotheus Vermeulen and Robin van den Akker.

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- **commercial, networking ventures added to digital means of creative expression**
(Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Skype, Instagram, Tumblr *etc.*)
- **will mix genres**, will mix media, digital collages can result through references of on line material
- **lacks any resolution**
- **lack clear, quick interpretation**
- emphasis on stream of conscious
- **artist will reference themselves within the work—metaphorically or in actuality;**
multi-layered use of celebrity status