

# EXPRESSIONISM

Mallory Gonyea

# Expressionism

Started: 1905

## ex·pres·sion·ism

/ɪkˈspresɪənɪzəm/ 

*noun*

a style of painting, music, or drama in which the artist or writer seeks to express emotional experience rather than impressions of the external world.

Expressionism emerged simultaneously in various cities across Germany as a response to a widespread anxiety about humanity's increasingly discordant relationship with the world and accompanying lost feelings of authenticity and spirituality. In part a reaction against Impressionism and academic art, Expressionism was inspired most heavily by the Symbolist currents in late-19<sup>th</sup>-century art. Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch, and James Ensor proved particularly influential to the Expressionists, encouraging the distortion of form and the deployment of strong colors to convey a variety of anxieties and yearnings. The classic phase of the Expressionist movement lasted from approximately 1905 to 1920 and spread throughout Europe. Its example would later inform Abstract Expressionism, and its influence

# Sculpture

*Expressionist Head* by pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. Associated with six paintings with the same name.

Year: 1980



# Painting

Artist: Candido Portinari-  
Brazilian painter of the  
Expressionistic Movement.  
(1903-1962)  
Year: 1944



# Writing

In the art of writing, expressionism seeks to forgo realism and to have a sense of spirituality rather than physical realness.

Authors: Friedrich Nietzsche  
August Strindberg  
Frank Wedekind  
Walt Whitman  
Fyodor Dostoevsky

O CAPTAIN! my Captain! our fearful trip is done;  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won;  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring:  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up--for you the flag is flung--for you the bugle trills; 10  
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths--for you the shores a-crowding;  
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;  
Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head;  
It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still;  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will;  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done;  
From fearful trip, the victor ship, comes in with object won; 20  
Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells!  
But I, with mournful tread,

# Music

Expressionistic music is classified as “avoiding traditional forms of beauty”. Often features high levels of dissonance and constant changing of textures.

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- [Arnold Schoenberg](#)



# Scenery



MTSU Fall 2018, *The Adding Machine*

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# Costumes

*Alice in Wonderland, 2010*



# Lighting

*Johnny Johnson, 1936*



# *Bibliography:*

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expressionist\\_music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expressionist_music)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-pVz2LTakM>
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expressionism\\_\(theatre\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expressionism_(theatre))
  - <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10156339148458451&type=3>
  - <https://www.poemhunter.com/walt-whitman/>
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