

Rococo

-Less commonly known as "Late Baroque," Rococo is characterized by an elaborately ornamental late baroque style of decoration with asymmetrical patterns involving motifs and scrollwork.

By Mattie Ford



- Rococo is one of the final expressions of the Baroque movement. This style of art made its way into Europe between the 1730s and 1780s.
- It is influenced by the death of Louis XIV. The French court moved back into their homes and redecorated them differently than the old king's style.
- The word Rococo derives from the French word *rocaille* which is the decorations of pebbles and shells.
- In society women competed for the best decorations in their homes so Rococo obtained a more feminine style.
- Jean Antoine Watteau is considered the father of Rococo. He invented a genre called *fêtes galantes* which is a courtship party.
- *Chinoiserie* is also an influence of Rococo. This is a Chinese artistic style that began in the late 17th century.



- "The Swing" by Jean-Honoré Fragonard
- This piece shows the frivolous nature of most Rococo pieces. There are curves scattered all of the piece and the only straight lines point directly to more curved lines on the pink dress.
- The soft pink color is another common occurrence in Rococo pieces. The soft pastel colors grab your attention because the other colors are normally darker.
- Rococo pieces also don't have much negative space like this piece. There is positive space on almost the whole painting.



- "Macht zur See (Power upon the Sea) by Rudolf Weyr
- This sculpture also shows the chaos and randomness of the curved lines like the paintings did. If you didn't look at what was happening in the sculpture and just looked at the lines the chaotic and random lines are actually more free and loving.
- The Rococo sculptures were mostly sculpted with porcelain. Which is why they are all white although some contain gold and bronze colors. The emptiness of color makes the details stand out more.
- Asymmetry is common in Rococo sculptures. They also contain S and C scrolls which are curved lines that resemble S and C.



François Couperin:
Les Lis naissans

- "Les Lis naissans" by François Couperin
- Rococo music is light, elegant, and whimsical.
- The music had a clear mood and it sometimes changed throughout the piece.
- A Rococo composition was normally repetitive and short.
- The music had small elements added around the melodies that was pretty much added for the sake of ornamentation.

Rococo in Theatre

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

International Tour Produced by
Networks Tours & Broadway
Entertainment Group





- Scenic designer Stanley A. Meyer incorporated the Rococo style in the scenic design by adding the whimsical curves and asymmetrical designs.





- Costumes by Ann Hould-Ward in Beauty and the Beast at Saenger Theatre.
- The costumes in this production use many Rococo elements such as the many curved lines of asymmetry that use gold and pastel colors.



- The lighting design by Natasha Kats gives the pale colors that Rococo art uses to the somewhat darker sets. A lot of Rococo art work has the main subject, who is usually a woman, in pale light clothing compared to the darker colors surrounding her.
- The pale blues and greens and bright pinks in the lighting also create shadows that add even more curved and random lines to the set.

Bibliography

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