House-trained objects: Notes towards writing an alternative history of modern art


Item Type: Book Chapter or Section

Note: This essay sought to disinter a lost history of twentieth century modernism and to recuperate forays by fine artists into the applied arts. It was also a pioneering attempt to analyse the significance of artists’ current engagement with the ‘world of ordinary things’. The chapter was a contribution to the current debate concerning the cultural significance of the ‘everyday’ and sought, on a modest scale, to rewrite the history of visual modernism. Several methodological models were useful for this research including anthropological texts on art consumption (Appadurai, Danto, Gell) and attempts to reconfigure the history of visual modernism (TJ. Clark, Kirkham, Naylor, Sparke, Tillyard). It made use of my ongoing research into Le Corbusier's engagement with folk and vernacular objects. The book in which this essay appeared is now a standard test on contemporary art in relation to the home. It came out of the ‘At Home with Art’ project organised by Colin Painter at Tate Britain and at Homebase.

Divisions: Bath School of Art and Design

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modern architecture, new architectural style that emerged in many Western countries in the decade after World War I. It was based on the “rational” use of modern materials, the principles of functionalist planning, and the rejection of historical precedent and ornament. This style has been generally designated as modern, although the labels International style, Neue Sachlichkeit, and functionalism have also been used. Development of the Style. Since the mid-19th cent. there had been repeated attempts to assimilate modern technology in practice and theory and to formulate a modern sty Modern Art Definition, Characteristics, History, Movements. Main a-z index. Weeping Woman (1937) By Picasso, now regarded as the greatest of 20th Century Painters. Although there is no single defining feature of “Modern Art”, it was noted for a number of important characteristics, as follows: (1) New Types of Art. Modern artists were the first to develop collage art, assorted forms of assemblage, a variety of kinetic art (inc mobiles), several genres of photography, animation (drawing plus photography) land art or earthworks, and performance art. Modern painters affixed objects to their canvases, such as fragments of newspaper and other items. Sculptors used “found objects”, like the “readymades” of Marcel Duchamp, from which they created works of Junk art. Modern art: Modern art, painting, sculpture, architecture, and graphic arts characteristic of the 20th and 21st centuries and of the later part of the 19th century. Modern art embraces a wide variety of movements, theories, and attitudes whose modernism resides particularly in a tendency to reject traditional Modern art embraces a wide variety of movements, theories, and attitudes whose modernism resides particularly in a tendency to reject traditional. Rauschenberg, Robert: MonogramMonogram, combine painting (mixed media) by Robert Rauschenberg, 1959; in the Moderna Museet, Stockholm.