The Curative Collective
With Mr. H. Schwartzberg

MIGRATION: MODERN ART
CLAUDE MONET, VINCENT VAN GOGH, PAUL CÉZANNE, PABLO PICASSO, GEORGES BRAQUE, MARCELLE DUCHAMP, JACKSON POLLOCK, MARK ROTHKO, ANDY WARHOL, DAMIEN HIRST, AND TIM HAWKINSON

Curated by Arnold Matatov

October 11, 2012 – January 9, 2013
What is migration? Migration is the movement of elements (such as people, items, ideas) from one destination to another. In my curated art show, you will be taken on a journey through the changes in art from the Impressionist Period (1865-1900) (Claude Monet), to Pop Art (1960 – 1980s) ending with Damien Hirst (Contemporary Art/Unknown Art).

Albert Einstein once said, “The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” Einstein’s quote shows that throughout history, ideas and elements used in works of art have migrated from one time period to the next and influenced the techniques artists utilized in order to create new works of art. In addition, the migration of art is an ongoing process that continues to influence the ideas of many works of art throughout the world present day.

The migration of art began with Impressionist Artist Claude Monet (1885-1900). In his painting, Rouen Cathedral In Full Sunlight, Monet, like other Impressionists, based his artwork primarily on the elements of light and color. As shown by the use of color on the Cathedral, Monet focused on the effects that sunlight and color had on elements present in nature. In addition, Monet based the use of color in his paintings on the time of day. As shown by the first painting of the Rouen Cathedral, the colors used express the effects that light had on the Cathedral and captured the views that Impressionists sought to utilize. In addition, the painting, Rouen Cathedral in Normal Daylight, depicts a different perspective of the Rouen Cathedral.

In this painting, Monet uses different colors in order to express his views of the effects of sunlight in a different perspective. For example, notice the difference in the color of the sky; it is darker than that of the first painting. In addition, this painting expresses more details due to the difference in color. For example, notice the reddish-yellow colors used on the entrance in the first painting, and the purplish-orange colors used in that of the second painting. The elements in one are expressed more clearly than the other. Furthermore, notice the colors of the cathedrals. The details of the Cathedral in one are expressed more clearly than the other because of the ways light was captured. Monet also expresses the features and elements of the Cathedral in a way that portrays a different time of day (late afternoon rather than early to mid afternoon).

The ideas utilized by Claude Monet migrated and influenced Post Impressionists. One specific Post Impressionist Artist who utilized Impressionist ideas, elements, and emphasized his view of the natural world was Vincent Van Gogh. Post Impressionist Artists such as Van Gogh were more expressive of the elements found in nature. For example, they expressed more of the elements of wind, air, and color. Instead of emphasizing light, Van Gogh focuses more on the properties of line, pattern, form, and color in his paintings.

In his painting, Starry Night, Van Gogh freely expresses the use of form and color in order to depict the movement of wind, air, and other elements. Notice the swirls and yellow stars in the sky. Van Gogh did this in order to depict the migration (movement and change) in art. In addition, in the painting, The Café Terrace on the Place de Forum Arles, Van Gogh shows the different techniques that developed during the Post Impressionist Period (1885-1910). One technique that artists of this time period developed was the use of brush strokes. Instead of painting flatly, Post Impressionists used large brush strokes with thick
Cézanne’s ideas migrated and influenced artists of the Cubist Period.

Two cubist artists that were influenced by Paul Cézanne’s painting, *Bibemus Quarry*, were Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. In Picasso’s painting, *Factory – Horta de Ebbò*, Picasso shows the start of cubism by using geometric figures to represent his views of the landscape at a different perspective. Notice the shapes that Picasso used to portray the rooftop of the houses, the geometric shapes used on the buildings, and mountains in the painting below (bottom right). Picasso used geometric figures in order to simplify his view of the natural world by expressing his view of landscapes in different perspectives. Before Cézanne’s, Picasso’s, and Braque’s time, artists painted landscapes. After Cézanne introduced *Bibemus Quarry*, artists such as Picasso, started to take a different approach to art by simplifying their views of landscapes.

Cézanne’s ideas migrated and influenced both Picasso and Braque by elaborating their views of landscapes and nature by using geometric shapes. Braque and Picasso are the two artists associated with the start of cubism because they were the first to discover artwork by Cézanne such as *Bibemus Quarry*. Compared to the artwork created by the Impressionists, artwork created by Braque and Picasso emphasized elements in the background (i.e. notice the mountains in Picasso’s work (bottom right), and the trees and use of light in that of Braque’s (bottom left)).

In addition, Braque and Picasso worked together in painting that creates texture by giving the paintings feelings of action and emotion. The ideas utilized by Claude Monet migrated to Vincent Van Gogh, which allowed him to take a similar approach to the artwork created in the Impressionist Period.

Another Post Impressionist artist influenced by the ideas, elements, and properties of Impressionist Artwork was Paul Cézanne. Paul Cézanne created his artwork by examining still life, landscapes, and his view of the visual world at several angles and viewpoints. One piece of artwork that shows Cézanne’s view of landscape at different angles is *Bibemus Quarry*. In this painting, Cézanne painted the landscape differently than other Post Impressionists. He experimented with his views of the land by breaking it up into shapes and geometric forms. Notice the shape of the rocks and the hills in the above painting. Cézanne shows that he did not paint his view of the land realistically. Instead he captured it by using contrasting shapes and colors. In addition, look closely at the top portion of the painting. Notice the tilt in the landscape. Through this style of painting, Cézanne represents a form of abstract painting because he based his artwork on his views and perspectives of the landscape. Due to his perception of land and objects at different angles and viewpoints,

Due to the same studio and created many works of art. The artwork created by these artists led to the creation of abstract art; a type of art that broke away from traditional works of art by exploring the relationship between form and color. Abstract painting led to the start of Dada and Surrealism. One artist who came about in this time period was Marcelle Duchamp. While some artwork goes in one direction, artwork created by Duchamp went in another
direction; meaning he challenged traditional works of art. Duchamp based his artwork on ideas not on visual beauty. He did this by representing his artwork with the beauty of ideas.

Duchamp used conceptual art in order to express his views of art differently. In *Mona Lisa Moustache*, Duchamp used conceptual art in order to show that art is not about beauty. Instead, it is the beauty of the ideas that lie behind the artwork. Duchamp drew the moustache on the famous Mona Lisa not because he disliked Da Vinci and his artwork. He drew it because he wanted to express a different way of looking at art. Through this example, he shows us that the important factors in art are the ideas used, not the beauty of the painting. Why do you think Duchamp drew the moustache on the Mona Lisa? Did he not like the Mona Lisa? Was he trying to make it look better? or Was he trying to add a sense of humor to the artwork?

Duchamp’s use of the moustache shows the use of conceptual art by breaking from traditional representations of art. Artists before Duchamp, even before Van Gogh, expressed their artwork by painting their views and observations of landscape rather than challenging the idea behind their views of nature.

Artwork created after the cubist period split into two different directions; conceptual art and visual art. Duchamp chose conceptual art. His use of conceptual art influenced two contemporary artists; Andy Warhol (Pop Art), and Damien Hirst (Modern Day Art).

Artwork created by artists of the Cubist period such as Picasso, migrated to Abstract Expressionist artists in America during the 1950s. One specific artist who was influenced by Picasso’s work was Jackson Pollock. Jackson Pollock created his artwork by using abstract painting, meaning he expressed movement such as elements and ideas, emotion, and the relationship between form and color. Artists of this time period abandoned the traditional style of painting. They did this by representing their views of the world with images that hold many meanings. In addition, Pollock created drip paintings in which he created his own kind of art by rebelling against artwork created in previous time periods.

The style of painting utilized by Jackson Pollock comes from Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh used large brush strokes in order to create texture.

In addition, Van Gogh might have been the first artist to influence Jackson Pollock. He inspired Pollock to express emotion in his paintings through action painting. In action painting, Pollock used his physical body by walking around his canvas while he painted. His actions can be compared to a ritualized dance because it expressed his own sense of individuality and originality. In *Lavender Mist*, Pollock expressed movement by spattering and splashing paint on the canvas in which he painted on. He painted this way in order to express his emotions and to feel as if he were part of the painting. He also believed that paintings have lives of their own because the end result of the painting is based on what the artist expects to see. This is why Pollock painted continuously until he saw what he wanted to see.

Another Abstract Expressionist artist influenced by the ideas of cubist artwork was Mark Rothko. Just like Pollock’s art, Rothko’s artwork exerts emotion on many of his viewers. For example, some people may cry or grieve while looking at the style in which his paintings were created. In *Color Field* (left) and in *Blue, Green, and Brown* (top right), many people may express different emotions such as emptiness, loneliness, abandonment, and anguish. In addition, Rothko was more of a man of emotion. Many people who view his shows cry and feel pity because of the emotions Rothko exerted in his artwork.

During Pollock’s and Rothko’s time, another period of art was developing. This time period is known
as Pop Art. One artist who came about in this time period was Andy Warhol. Warhol created his artwork by focusing on the popular celebrities, commercial products, billboard advertisements, and other iconic elements of the 1960s. Warhol often used bright colors and kept his artwork simple. In addition, he wanted his artwork to be something that that everyone can relate to. Two such examples would be the *Three Coke Bottles* and *Campbell’s Soup*, because they were popular products among people and were well known. In addition, he mass produced celebrities such as *Elizabeth Taylor* and *Marilyn Monroe* as well as popular cartoons such as *Popeye*. Warhol also mass produced major *News Headlines* because they were the first things people would focus their attention on. Warhol created mass productions because he was interested in the factors that influence human interest. For example, in Electric Chair, Warhol captured the interest people would have when a person or celebrity is shocked to death. Warhol created mass productions by creating many different versions of the same person, object, idea and other elements through silk screens. He created his silk screens by first laying out a large piece of blank paper. He would then place the silk screen he desired on top of the blank paper. He and a friend/co-worker would then use a squidgy bar in order to squeeze the paint onto the paper by moving it back and forth in order to yield the desired outcome. While maintaining the original figure, Warhol was able to use different colors in order to create his silk screens. His use of silk screens allowed him to promote the movement of popular art in America by mass producing the factors that influenced human interest. The movement of popular art influenced the migration of art by influencing modern day artist Damien Hirst. Hirst is one of the major popular contemporary artists who has been influenced by the migration of art. Two such artists that had an influence on him were Marcelle Duchamp and Andy Warhol. Warhol’s use of conceptual art allowed Hirst to make work that expresses a change in contemporary art. In addition, the artwork created by Damien Hirst was influenced by Andy Warhol’s subject matter (popular ideas, culture, art) and production of art (use of silk screens). Hirst’s artwork examines the process of life and death, ironies, and desires that people of modern society encounter on a day-to-day basis. Damien Hirst’s artwork reflects problems that are commonly faced by modern society. As shown in *Shark In Tank*, Hirst portrays the joy of life and the limits that go along with it such as the inevitability of death through a shark suspended in a confined tank. Hirst used the shark in order to symbolize the universal fears of death and to show that death is big enough to scare just about anyone. The movement and change of the ideas and elements used in works of art from Claude Monet to Damien Hirst show the migration of art because ideas spread from one area to the next, which allowed certain elements (such as line and light) to be emphasized, recreated, and reshaped. In addition, Albert Einstein claims that the migration of art changed the ways in which artists around the world viewed art. Throughout many parts of the world, works of art have migrated and influenced artists in many different periods of time. As a result, many artists started to adapt their own methods and ideas. Furthermore, works of art cannot be changed unless artists are influenced by the ideas of other artists. This concludes the end of the journey through the migration of art. Some questions you may want to consider are: Where will art migrate to and how will it migrate? How will the next generation of art be influenced? Will the next generation of art be influenced by technology? (read below)

**The Future of Technology and Art**

The elements and ideas utilized by Damien Hirst have migrated to contemporary artist Tim Hawkinson. Hawkinson is considered to be one of the many artists associated with the future of technology and art. In his *Self Portrait*, Hawkinson uses technology in order to be part of his art and to portray the inevitability of death. He, along with Damien Hirst, wanted to show that death is a part of life not just something that can be forgotten.

Social Media, a means of communication used by large groups of people, is another form of art that will influence the migration of art. The social media website, kickstarter.com, is a means of communication that allows artist to exhibit their artwork on the Internet. This website promotes the migration of art by allowing ideas to flow from one artist to the next which will continue the ongoing process of the migration of art throughout the world.
CHECKLIST

Claude Monet
- Rouen Cathedral In Full Sunlight 1894
- Haystacks: End of Summer 1894
- Rouen Cathedral In Normal Daylight 1894
  Courtesy the artist

Vincent Van Gogh
- Starry Night, 1889
- View of Arles 1890
- Wheatfield with Crows 1890
- Starry Night Over the Rhone 1888
- The Café Terrace on the place de Forum Arles 1888
  Courtesy the artist

Paul Cézanne
- Bibemus Quarry 1895
- Mount Saint Victorie 1894
- Forest 1904
- House and Farm at Jas de Bouffan 1887
  Courtesy the artist

Pablo Picasso
- Factory – Horta de Ebro 1909
  Courtesy the artist

Georges Braque
- Vladiuct at L’ Estaque 1908
  Courtesy the artist

Marcel Duchamp
- Mona Lisa Moustache, and Fountain 1918
  Courtesy the artist

Jackson Pollock
- Tea Cup 1946
- The Key 1946
- Easter and the Totem 1953
- Lavender Mist 1950
  Courtesy the artist

Mark Rothko
- Color Field 1950
- Black and Grey 1970
- Red and Black 1959
- Blue, Green, and Brown 1950
  Courtesy the artist

Andy Warhol
- Elizabeth Taylor 1960
- Marilyn Monroe, 1960
- Three Coke Bottles, 1960
- Popeye, Chairman Mao & Campbell’s Soup 1962
- Newspaper Headline 1965
- Electric Chair 1964
  Courtesy the artist

Damien Hirst
- Shark in Tank 2010
  Courtesy the artist

Tim Hawkinson
- Self Portrait 2000
  Courtesy the artist

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- Tea Cup 1946
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