

Pop Art Background: Pop Art is a subject in art that deals with popular culture, celebrating it, critiquing it, or investigating it. An easy way to think about it is that artists always reflect the times that they live in. While an artist in ancient Egypt would produce art as a tribute to the Pharaohs, for example, Pop artists in the 1950's and 60's would produce art that is a tribute to products, brands, and/or celebrities that define their culture. So, instead of this ancient sculpture of the Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep III from the year 1350 BC, with Pop Art you get Andy Warhol's Double Elvis silkscreen painting from 1963. Both reflect the "leaders" of their day.



The Egyptian sculpture is incredibly labor intensive and skillful, made as a tribute to the ruler. The Warhol is quickly made using a commercial art process, silkscreen, blurring the boundary between Fine Art and Commercial art. Is it art, or just a product to be sold? The same process used to produce a cheap Elvis T-shirt is used to create this painting. The Elvis T shirt wouldn't be worth much, but the Warhol painting is worth millions. Why? Partially because of Warhol's celebrity...an idea that he helped bring to the forefront of American culture by featuring it heavily in his life and works.

Here's a short video to explain more: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/pop-art>

Pop Artists Roy Litchstein's idea was simple but revolutionary. He would take a frame or two from cheap comic books and reproduce them, sometimes massively, on museum grade canvas with paint. He turned something that at the time was cheap, disposable and not serious, into something to contemplate and reflect on as one does in a museum. In the 60's comics were considered cheap, fun...kid's stuff. Not serious. But Roy would often choose images that were very heavy, like this girl dying of a broken heart.

To me, this is not much different from "sampling" in music a few decades later...taking someone else's work and changing the context to create something new.



Here's more about Roy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG6M1uo2PVY>

FINALLY...YOUR PROJECT CHOICES! Pick a Pop Art project topic below. Choose one sounds interesting to you and produce a work of art with any materials you have access to.

Note: a quick google search for POP ART will turn up a lot of bright colors, comics, onomatopoeias from comics (BANG! POW! KABLAMMO!) and so on. While these are all based on ideas formed when pop art's heyday in the 60's, your work does not need to look like any of these. To me, Pop Art is more about the subject and meaning or your work than the style. It is not 1960 anymore! Work in any style you wish that fits your idea.

You have a lot of freedom here, but you should try to create a well-made piece of art that uses techniques you have gained so far in this class (color mixing, upside down drawing, grid systems, line weight, gradients, shading, crosshatching, glazing, layering, patterns, mixed media techniques...depending on your access to materials of course!)

- A drawing/painting of a comic strip with the captions changed to create a new meaning
- A boring celebrity scandal (or invent a new one)
- A ridiculous tabloid cover ("local woman gives birth to 90 pound baby")
- The good or bad sides of social media
- A celebration of a plain, everyday object (advertisement for a pen, a paper clip, a shoelace) that makes extraordinary claims
- An advertisement for a new reality show
- Corporate Greed (Sneakers that cost \$5 to make and sell to youth for \$200)
- Overpaid athletes, actors, politicians, musicians, tech people
- Untalented popular musician's new horrible product (Kidz Bop #123!)
- A new logo for a popular product
- Movie Cliché's (Rocky 23)
- Combat a particular advertising lie (fast food is healthy, alcohol makes you sexy, driving 125 will not get you a ticket or a car wreck)
- Invent a new game system, or game
- Invent a new boy band
- Market a new fast food value meal
- Invent a new mascot for KFC to make its food seem healthy
- Create a parody of a famous ad campaign
- An artwork based on a popular song
- Invent a ridiculous celebrity feud

- An ordinary subject presented in an important way (Extra Extra! Billie Eilish seen buying groceries!)

Send me a picture of your work in the remind app on May 22nd, in two weeks.
HAVE FUN! MAKE ART! NO STRESS! MISS YOU ALL!

Mr. Lynch