

5 Tenets of Modernism

1. Worldview is fragmented.
 - a. Meaning must be restored.
 - b. Form is fragmented.
2. Challenge to form and tradition.
 - a. Specifically, a rejection of the traditions of Romanticism (and Victorianism).
 - b. Embraces Neo-Classicism, a kind of neo-neo-classicism.
 - c. Influenced by art and industry.
3. Meaning is subjective.
 - a. Meaning must be created by the artist and, independently, by the audience.
 - b. This is different from the Blakean notion of subjectivity, where the author is the subject writing about his/her experience. Art is the experience and the artist wants to put the experience into meaningful terms.
4. Blending of High and Low art.
 - a. Think Duchamp's "Fountain."
 - b. Classical allusions are mixed with everyday, popular images and ideas.
 - c. Rise of popular media: music, photography, journals, films, etc.
 - d. Art is becoming an industry.
5. Mechanical and Industrial influences are strong.
 - a. WWI, Depression, WWII, all influence the notions of mechanization of the world.
 - b. Death is industrialized by war machines and industrial catastrophes.
 - c. Rise of the automobile.
 - d. The speed at which people can travel is increasing greatly.
 - e. Communications are becoming quicker.
 - f. The beginnings of Globalization (note the role of imperialism of the 19th C in this aspect).