

An architectural drawing of the San Diego Museum of Art facade, rendered in a dark, textured style. The drawing features a central arched entrance with a pediment containing three figures. Above the entrance is a large, ornate crest. The facade is flanked by two windows with decorative surrounds. The text 'HIGH TECH HIGH' is prominently displayed at the top, with 'WITH HELP FROM SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART' below it. The words 'MOTIVE' and 'MOTIF' are written vertically on either side of the entrance. At the bottom, the name 'ROBIN-WILLIAMS' is written horizontally. A stylized graphic of a hand holding a pen is located in the lower-left corner. The background is a light, textured surface.

HIGH TECH HIGH

WITH HELP FROM

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

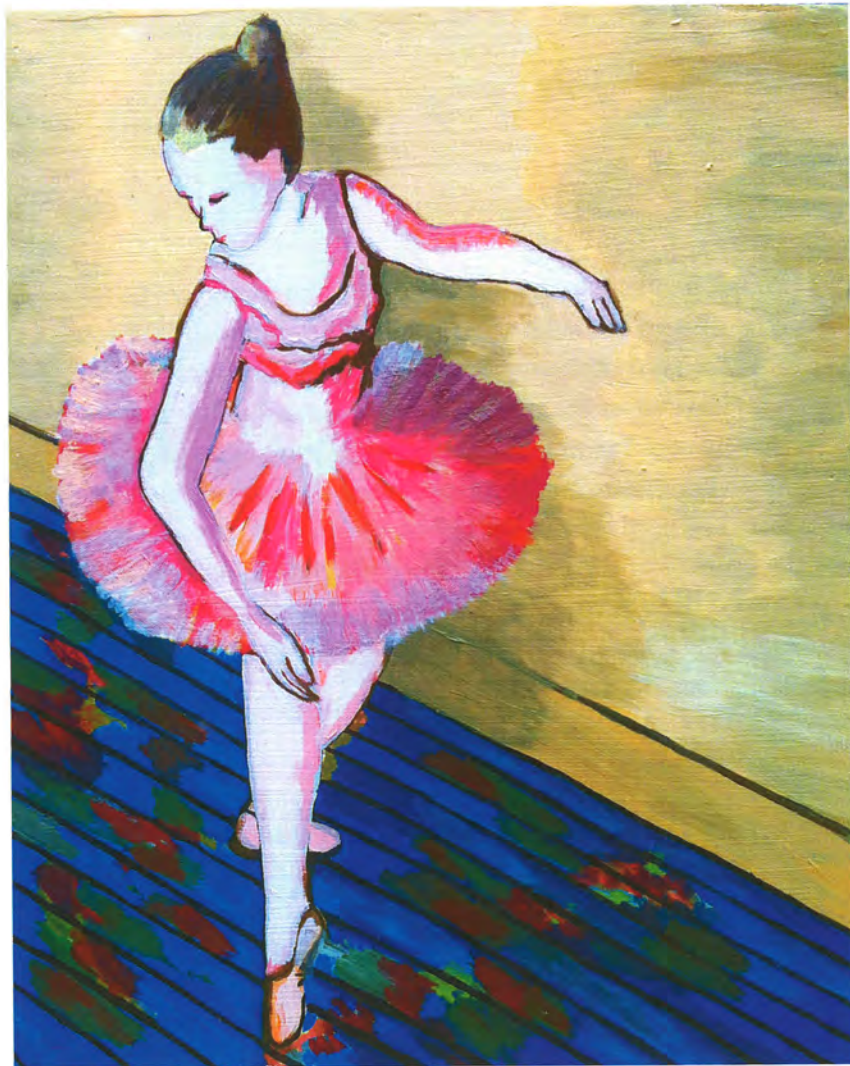
MOTIVE

MOTIF

ROBIN-WILLIAMS

This project had us delving into the depths of famous artist's minds. We visited the San Diego Museum of Art and then researched the artist and the Motives and Motifs of their works. Once we had an artist that we wanted to emulate, we returned to the museum for an intensive investigation into the works so that we could ascertain exactly how they painted their paintings. We observed their brush strokes, the types of canvases they used, and even the type of paint they used. With that knowledge in hand, we set about trying to capture the essence of the artist by using their Motives and Motifs to create art. This book is a record of our research and creative endeavors. The paintings are not copies; they are emblematic of what we think the artist might have also made.

-Alex
Student

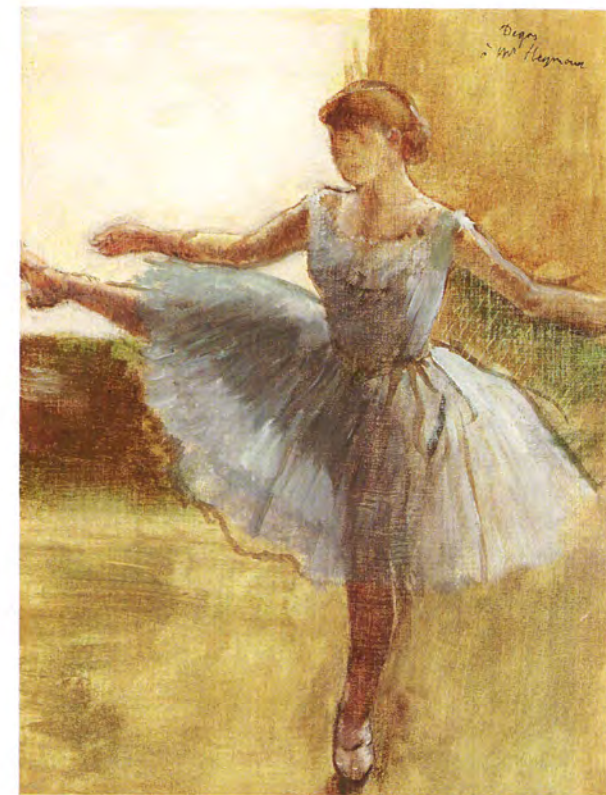


Simone
Coupé, 2011
acrylic on wood

Edgar Degas is known as one of the pioneers of Impressionism. Over half of his works include ballet dancers, which show his “mastery in the depiction of movement.” The faces lack detail, which draws attention to the dancer’s movement and stance. Although vivid, the color palette is not too varied, and bold brushstrokes are used. His paintings are very washy and almost see-through. Unusual vantage points and asymmetrical framing are also common within his work.

A ballerina in rehearsal is a common motif in many of Degas’ paintings. He created an estimated 1,500 pieces of art with ballerinas as the subject. His paintings of dancers often show them backstage rehearsing and focus on their gestures and poses as they “practiced, waited, primed and stretched in the rehearsal room.” While his earlier portraits portray the subjects as individuals, his paintings of dancers represent a type of person rather than a specific individual. They focus less on the face and more on the movement and gestures of the body, often using contorted postures to depict the physicality of ballet dancers.

-Simone



Edgar Degas
France, 1834-1917

The Ballerina, ca. 1876
oil on canvas



Alex
NTC in squares, 2011
acrylic on wood

Diego Rivera used a variety of styles of painting throughout his lifetime. At one point during the mid 1910s, he was devoted to cubism. However, he later changed styles, saying that cubism was too intellectual and not concerned enough with fluidity of lines.

In Rivera's cubist work, there are muted colors, shadows made of multiple colors, and distorted objects. He was dissimilar to Picasso, who painted in the Analytical or Synthetic style. Rivera's style of cubism was displayed within his brush strokes.

-Alex



Diego Rivera
Mexico, 1886-1957

Landscape Toledo, 1913
oil on canvas



Quinn
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

Salvador Dalí painted what he saw in his own mind and believed that your subconscious was more artistic than your conscious mind. Dalí's art varies significantly in style and media, but he is most well known for his surrealist paintings. Dalí called his method of painting the "paranoiac – critical method" of accessing the subconscious for greater artistic creativity. His paintings are mostly done with oils paints, but he used very small paintbrushes that allowed his paintings to be smooth, not showing many brush strokes.

Dalí's paintings show dream-like images of realistic things. He painted melting clocks in his famous painting, *The Persistence of Memory*. The melting clock symbolizes Einstein's idea that time is relative and not fixed. Another motif of Dalí's is elephants, which were inspired by Gian Lorenzo Bernini's statue base in Rome of an elephant with an obelisk on his back. These elephants have extremely long limbs and look like something straight out of a dream. Other motifs are ants, butterflies, and skulls, all of which create a dream-like illusion. Dalí's paintings can often tell you about what was going on at the point in his life when he was painting them. A lot of his paintings incorporated his wife Gala. He also painted about politics, specifically World War II. After the war, Dalí gained an interest in science and religion.

-Quinn



Salvador Dalí
Spain, 1904-1989

Leda Atomica, 1949
oil on canvas



Christina
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

Wayne Thiebaud's devotion to traditional methods, favor of realism, and support of hard work as opposed to creativity serves as his motive. Although his pieces date from the 1950s and 60s (a time before classic Pop artists), his work is still coupled with the Pop Art movement because his art subjects are items of mass culture. He is known for his heavy and thick use of paint, well-defined shadows, and exaggerated colors used to illustrate his subjects.

Thiebaud's paintings are still-lives of simple everyday items such as cakes, pastries, toys, boots, and lipsticks. His subjects are painted just as they look and sometimes seem almost too simple. His still-lives have the characteristics of advertisements, and his cartoonist style shows through. You can also see the thickness of the paint and brushstrokes. Thiebaud also painted landscapes, streetscapes, and famous icons such as Mickey Mouse.

-Christina



Wayne Thiebaud
United States, born 1920

Confections, 1962
oil on linen

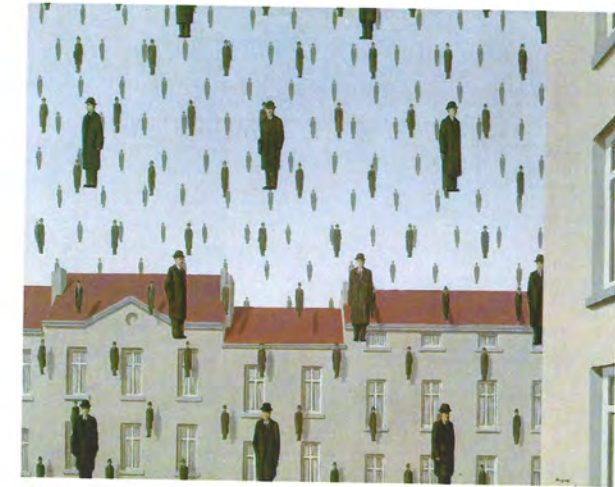


Kevin
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

René Magritte's motive was to play with reality; his paintings always juxtaposed ordinary objects with an unusual environment. According to Magritte, his paintings are supposed to evoke some kind of mystery. He says, "They evoke mystery and, indeed, when one sees one of my pictures, one asks oneself this simple question, 'What does that mean?'. It does not mean anything, because mystery means nothing either, it is unknowable."

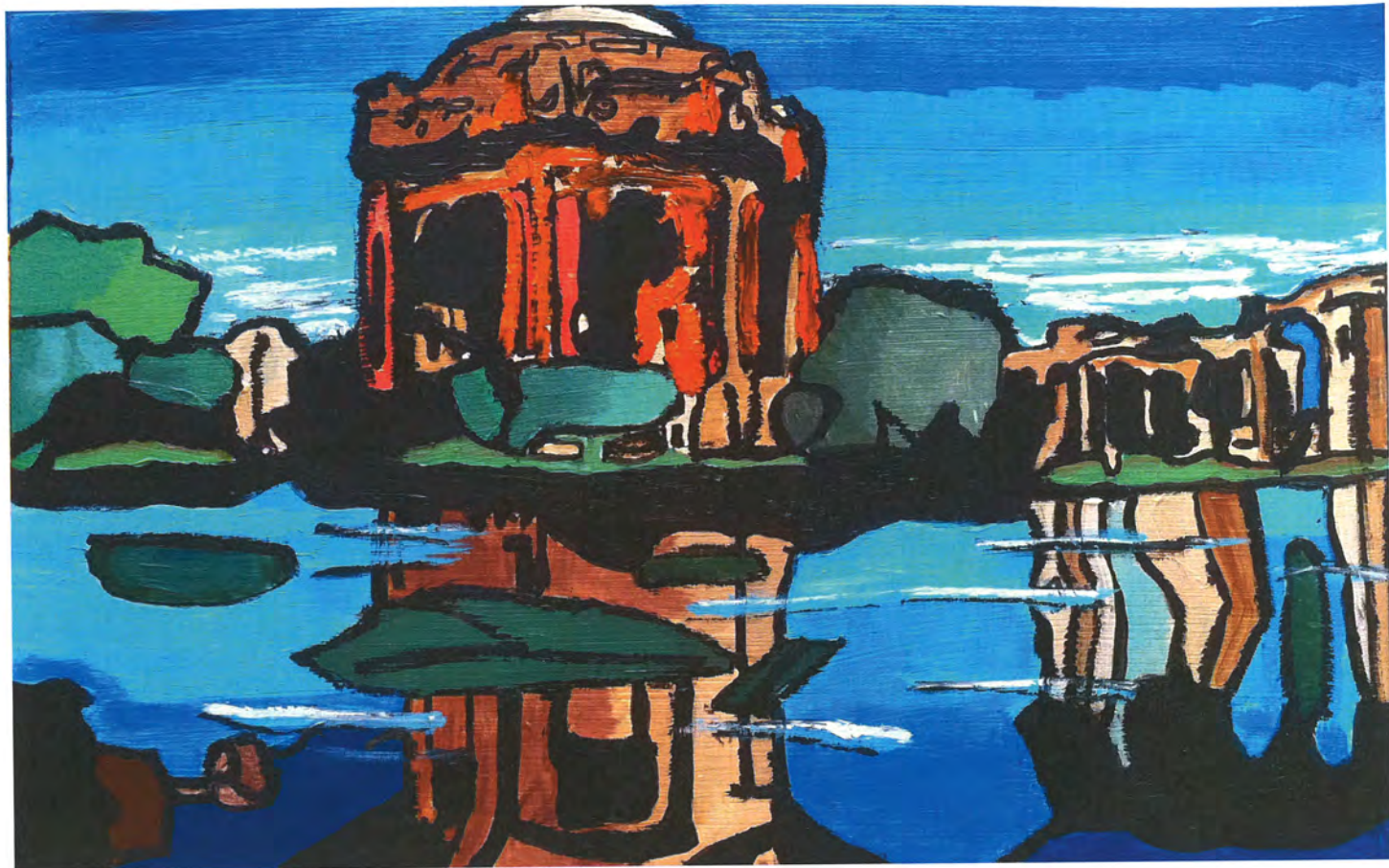
Pipes, eggs, apples, nicely dressed gentlemen, naked ladies, and easels are all commonly seen in Magritte's work. These objects are most often placed with outdoor scenery or with a piece of furniture.

-Kevin



René Magritte
Spain, 1898-1967

Golconde, 1953
oil on canvas



Nina

Legion of Honor, 2011

acrylic on wood

Though Max Beckmann's work has been classified as German Expressionism, he rejected the term and the movement. He painted what he saw to be modernism, using dark colors and bold black lines. Beckmann frequently showed the imminence of war in Weimar Germany.

Beckmann uses strong geometry, bold lines, thick brush strokes, and dark colors. Even in the night sky, the colors glow. The painting style is rough and sharp and rudimentary. His figures are simplified and frequently shadowed. All of his colors have been darkened and dulled with black in order to convey his depressive mood.

-Nina



Max Beckmann

Germany, 1884-1950

Blick auf Vorstädte am Meer bei Marseille, 1937

oil on canvas



Shea
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

Giorgio De Chirico's motive was to express a dreamlike resemblance of the clutter in his mind and subconscious. The shapes and objects in his paintings may not mean anything to the viewer, but to him they recreated the things he sees often and thinks about the most.

The motifs in De Chirico's paintings were often shapes and resemblances of objects he saw. For example, he would often include sentimental things like trains. He did this because his father was a train engineer and his town growing up was split in half by a railroad track. Therefore, trains meant a lot to him. In his paintings, he would use subtle surrealism to make the perspective of objects, rooms, and buildings just a little bit off to recreate a dreamlike memory.

-Shea



Giorgio De Chirico
Italy, 1888-1978

Il Ritornante, 1918
oil on canvas



Karen
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

Yves Tanguy used abstract forms with no meaning and backgrounds with unused space. He mainly used blue, black, and white. His painting style was influenced by Giorgio De Chirico and his second wife, Kay Sage. His dreams were commonly the subjects of his paintings as many had an organic look. His style of art has been described as “sort of amoebae turned to stone.”

Around 1927, Tanguy started painting using lunar and marine backgrounds. There is very little difference between the sky and the earth in many of his paintings. He also uses objects that mean nothing yet reoccur within his works. His brushstrokes are nearly unnoticeable, and he uses shadows to give life to his abstract objects.

-Karen



Yves Tanguy
France, 1900-1955

Untitled, 1935
oil on canvas



Timoteo
The Gorilla, 2011
cardboard

Jacques Lipchitz was a cubist sculptor whose motive was to assemble geometric shapes into abstract forms. Lipchitz primarily sculpted the human body, but his style changed throughout his life. His earlier work was angled and abstract while his later work was rounder and utilized much more detail. Lipchitz also made many sculptures influenced by African art.

Lipchitz would break up figures into geometric shapes and rearrange them. The shapes and angles make the bodies abstract, but the forms clearly represent something (i.e. human). Apart from the form, Lipchitz often used little physical detail in his early work.

-Timoteo



Jacques Lipchitz
Lithuania, 1891-1973

Seated Woman, 1916
bronze



Andrew
Untitled, 2011
acrylic on wood

Wayne Thiebaud was a San Francisco expressionist painter. He used recognizable images that were abstracted into a “proto-pop” composition.

Many of Thiebaud’s paintings focus on desserts or other types of food. He uses very realistic shadowing and exaggerated colors to add texture and realism to his paintings. Most of his works use basic shapes and rely mostly on bold color and shadowing to give his paintings detail.

-Andrew



Wayne Thiebaud
United States, born 1920

Plate of Hors d'Oeuvres, 1963
oil on canvas