



RADICAL AND
SELF CONSCIOUS

BREAK

WITH

Tradition



- WHY? -

1. REJECTION OF FORMER VALUES
2. EFFECTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHN.
3. METAPHORIC "SHRINKING" OF THE WORLD

INSTANTANEOUS
COMMUNICATION
SOCIAL/GEOGRAPHIC
MOBILITY

**NEW
FEATURES**

(1876)



1. SECULARISM
2. MATERIALISM
3. SELF CONSCIOUS QUEST FOR THE NEW, THE DIFFERENT, EVEN THE OUTRAGEOUS !!

CHANGING WORLD VIEW



- OPTIMISTIC FAITH IN TECHNOLOGY
- RELATIVELY PEACEFUL TIME

LATE 19TH C



- POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT
- TWO WORLD WARS

EARLY → MID 20TH C

MODERN ERA
ROUGHLY 1ST HALF OF 20TH CENTURY

POETRY →

EZRA POUND
(IMAGIST)

ROBERT FROST
(LYRIC POETRY)

ART →

KANDINSKY + MALEVICH
(NON OBJECTIVE)

POPOVA
(RUSSIAN CONSTRUCTIVISM)

WESTON
(PHOTOGRAPHIC ABSTRACTION)

ART ↓

PICASSO + BRAQUE
(CUBISM)

BOCCIONI
(FUTURISM)

MATISSE
(FAUVISM)

BRANCUSI
(ABSTRACTION)

What's happening in Music?

LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS

(The Rite of Spring)

- Inspired by Russian folk tales
- death, resurrection and ritual sacrifice
- SHATTERS rules of musical composition

And now for something completely different.



IGOR STRAVINSKY
(1882-1971)

PICASSO
DREW THIS
(MORAL: DON'T ASK P.P.
FOR A PORTRAIT!)

Dissonant
unfamiliar chords
abrupt rhythmic changes
twelve tone system
ARNOLD SCHONBERG

AS INCOMPREHENSIBLE AS A TIBETAN POEM!



A CRITIC (who knows nothing about Tibetan culture!)

I CAN'T HEAR THE MELODY.



A CONCERT-GOER

...and Dance?

TA-DAH!



Nijinsky
in
"Afternoon of a FAUN"

POETRY

EARLY 20TH C

ROBERT FROST

MUCH-LOVED
AMERICAN
POET



LYRIC POET

1874-1963

FIRE AND ICE

SOME SAY THE WORLD WILL END
IN FIRE,

SOME SAY IN ICE.

FROM WHAT I'VE TASTED OF DESIRE
I HOLD WITH THOSE WHO FAVOR FIRE
BUT IF IT HAD TO PERISH TWICE
I THINK I KNOW ENOUGH OF HATE
TO SAY THAT FOR DESTRUCTION ICE
IS ALSO GREAT
AND WOULD SUFFICE.
(1923)

EZRA POUND



1885-1972

THE BATHTUB

As a bathtub lined with white
porcelain,
When the hot water gives out or
goes tepid,
So is the slow cooling of our
chivalrous passion,
O my much praised but-not-
altogether-satisfactory lady.
(1926)

Lyric Poetry

This is Robert Frost's thing.

← ABSTRACT

ALTERNATIVE TO MODERNIST POETRY

- AN OLDER TRADITION
- USES METER + RHYME
- PLAIN SPEECH / DIRECT LANGUAGE
- BUT IS ALSO SPARSE / PARED DOWN
- ALSO REJECTS ROMANTIC SENTIMENTALITY.

Frost joked that modernist "free verse" with no rules was like playing tennis without a net.

Q: CAN YOU WORK OUT THE FORMAL RULES FROST IS USING IN "THE ROAD NOT TAKEN"?

FEATURES OF IMAGIST POETRY

STRESSES CLARITY

PRECISION & ECONOMY OF
LANGUAGE

BORROWS FROM CLASSICAL
CHINESE/JAPANESE POETRY
(HAIKU)

DOESN'T USE
TRADITIONAL RHYME + METER

NOT HEROIC
NOT SO EFFUSIVE
OR SELF-INDULGENT

TRIES TO "PARE DOWN"
CAPTURE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

"MAKE IT NEW"

EZRA POUND, AMY LOWELL, H. D. Y.

HILDA DOOLITTLE

NOTHING
EXTRA!

LIKE
USUAL
ART!

ARE WE
COOL WITH
THIS NOW?