

Contemporary Art

Key Ideas

- Contemporary Art engages the viewer in sometimes unexpected ways, through the presentation of the work, unique materials or forms, and surprising contexts. At times, viewers are part of the artwork, through their engagement with or reactions to it.
- “Contemporary artists continue to use a varied vocabulary of abstract and representational forms to convey their ideas. It is important to remember that the art of our time did not develop in a vacuum; rather, it reflects the social and political concerns of its cultural context.” (<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/beginners-guide-20-21/a/contemporary-art-an-introduction>)
- Contemporary art explores issues of race, gender, sexuality, technology, new media, world culture, self and cultural identity, and the legacy of history.

Terms

Installation art: Large-scale, mixed-media constructions, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time. (<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/i/installation-art>)

Hybridity: Works that combine two or more different things as well as those that explore the blurring and mixing of cultural or geographical boundaries.

Contemporary Art at Mia, selected objects (n.o.v. = not on view)

- Mark Dion, *Curator's Office*, 2012-2013, 2013.17
- Vik Muniz, *Verso (Rembrandt, Lucretia)*, 2012, 2012.76A-C
- Bill Viola, *Three Women*, 2008, 2010.97 (n.o.v.)
- The Propeller Group, *The Living Need Light, The Dead Music* (2014), through September 10
- Dave Muller, *Now Where Were We?* December 23, 2016 - December 15, 2017
- Kehinde Wiley, *Santos Dumont - The Father of Aviation II*, 2009, 2010.99 (n.o.v.)
- Renée Stout, *Crossroads Marker with Little Hand, Reaching*, 2015, 2016.2
- Renée Stout, *A Vision I Can't Forget*, 1999, 2000.58.2 (n.o.v.)
- Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2010, 2011.12a,b
- Nara Yoshitomo, *Your Dog*, 2002, 2007.100 (n.o.v.)
- Do Ho Suh, *Some/One*, 2005, 2012.77a-d (n.o.v.)
- Takashi Murakami, *Panda*, 2002 (loan object)
- Morimura Yasumasa, *An Inner Dialogue with Frida Kahlo (Hand Shaped Earring)*, 2001, 2010.25 (n.o.v.)
- Ai Weiwei, *Marble Chair*, 2008, 2010.24

Resources

A manual on Contemporary Art is posted on the IPE site, in Junior Docents/Readings, then scroll to the bottom of the results to find the *Contemporary Art Docent Guide Handbook*.

Introduction to Contemporary Art: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/beginners-guide-20-21/a/contemporary-art-an-introduction>

Art21, PBS series, “Art21 is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring a more creative world through the works and words of contemporary artists”:

<https://art21.org/>

Segment on Mark Dion:

<https://art21.org/artist/mark-dion/>

Segment on Do Ho Suh:

<https://art21.org/artist/do-ho-suh/>

Segment on Ai Weiwei:

<https://art21.org/artist/ai-weiwei/>

Segment on Nick Cave:

<https://art21.org/artist/nick-cave/>

Mark Dion, Mia Artist in Residence: <https://vimeo.com/album/2799770/video/87685777>

Vik Muniz, on the *Verso* series: <https://vimeo.com/178335668>

Short video on Kehinde Wiley’s work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHx4IFPqPiI>

Renée Stout biography: <https://nmwa.org/explore/artist-profiles/ren%C3%A9e-stout>

Short video of Stout, with her views on appropriation and influence of African art:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7sFe8BWqu8>

For researching contemporary artists, good informational resources are galleries that represent the artists. Some galleries with great websites and information are Saatchi Gallery, Pace Gallery, and White Cube:

Artist bio on Yasumasa Morimura, with examples of artworks:

http://www.saatchigallery.com/artists/yasumasa_morimura.htm

Artist bio on Yoshitomo Nara, with some examples of artwork:

<http://www.pacegallery.com/artists/323/yoshitomo-nara>

Artist bio on Chuck Close, with examples of artwork:

http://whitecube.com/artists/chuck_close/

Takashi Murakami promotional video for Louis Vuitton:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNH-F8XRi9s>

Friends’ lecture by Wendy Red Star, “The Insistence of an Apsáalooke Feminist”:

<https://vimeo.com/199479203>

MiaStory on the Propeller Group: <https://new.artsmia.org/stories/the-propeller-groups-tuan-andrew-nguyen-on-beautiful-funerals-faking-an-ad-agency-and-their-new-show-at-mia/>

Online glossary from the Tate: <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms>