

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**

# **Modern and Contemporary Arts and Artists**

# **Mia**

## Modern Art (1860s to 1970s)

**Modernism** refers to a global movement in society and culture that from the early decades of the 20th century sought a new alignment with the experience and values of modern industrial life. Building on late 19th-century precedents, artists around the world used new imagery, materials and techniques to create artworks that they felt better reflected the realities and hopes of modern societies. (Note: very Euro-centric)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/modernism>

## Modern Art (1860s to 1970s)

- rejection of history and conservative values (including realistic depiction of subjects); prefers subject matter of daily life
- innovation and experimentation with shapes, colors and lines; tendency toward abstraction and expression of emotions through bold brush strokes and vibrant colors
- emphasis on new materials, techniques and processes
- driven by social and political agendas; often associated with ideal visions of human life and society; belief in progress

[https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/)



Paul Cézanne, *Chestnut Trees at Jas de Bouffan*, c. 1885-1886, Oil on canvas, 49.9





Alexandra Exter, *Italian Town by the Sea*, c. 1917, Oil and tempera on canvas, 2008.83



Alexandra Exter, *Costume Design for Romeo and Juliet*, 1921  
M.T. Abraham Center, copyright owner, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24556646>







Henry Moore, *Warrior with Shield*,  
1954, Bronze, 54.22





Beauford Delaney, *Untitled*, 1954, Oil on raincoat fragment, 2003.106



Beauford Delaney, *Untitled*, 1954, Oil  
on raincoat fragment, 2003.106



Monet, Wisteria, 1917-20



Claude Monet, *The Japanese Bridge*,  
c. 1923-1925, Oil on canvas, 61.36.1

# Contemporary Art

The art of today, produced in the second half of the 20th century and in the 21st century. Contemporary artists work in a **globally** influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world. Their art is a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that continues to challenge boundaries in ways already well established in the 20th century.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_art)

# Contemporary Art

- diverse and eclectic, lacks a uniform, organising principle, ideology, or "-ism"
- places more emphasis on the process of making art than on the final product
- provides opportunities to reflect on current social events and practices important to us and to the world
- encourages dialogue on personal and cultural identity, family, community, activism, and nationality



# Contemporary Art

- does not have one, single objective or point of view; can be contradictory and open-ended
- includes common themes such as identity politics, the body, globalization and migration, technology, contemporary society and culture, time and memory, and institutional and political critique

Robertson, J., & McDaniel, C. (2012). *Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980* (3rd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.



How does Stella challenge our notions of what is art?

“What you see is what you see.”

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**

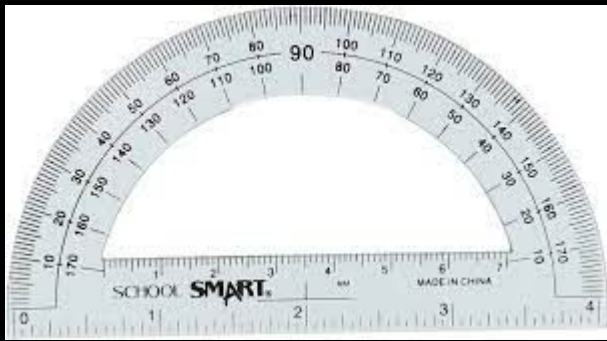
Frank Stella, *Tahkt-I-Sulayman  
Variation II*, 1969, Acrylic on  
canvas, 69.132

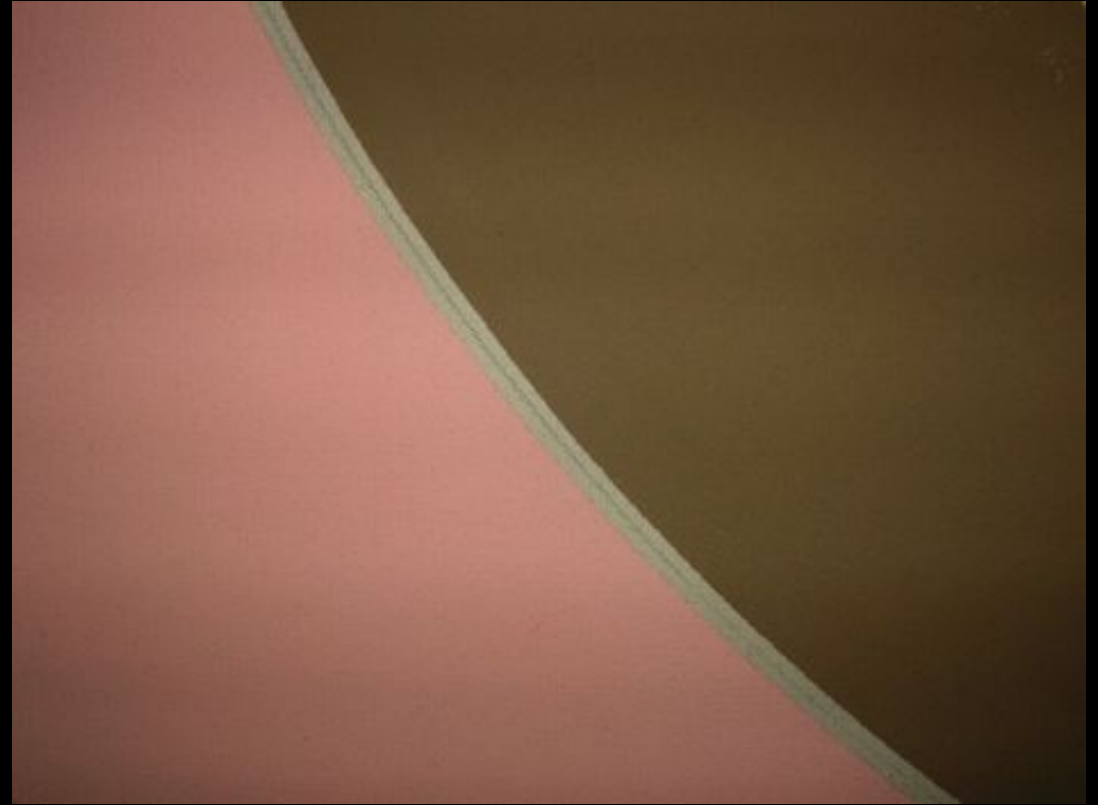


[www.tehrantimes.com/news/416399/Takht-e-Soleyman-Harmonious-sanctuary-inspired-by-natural-context](http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/416399/Takht-e-Soleyman-Harmonious-sanctuary-inspired-by-natural-context)



Karnaval.ir





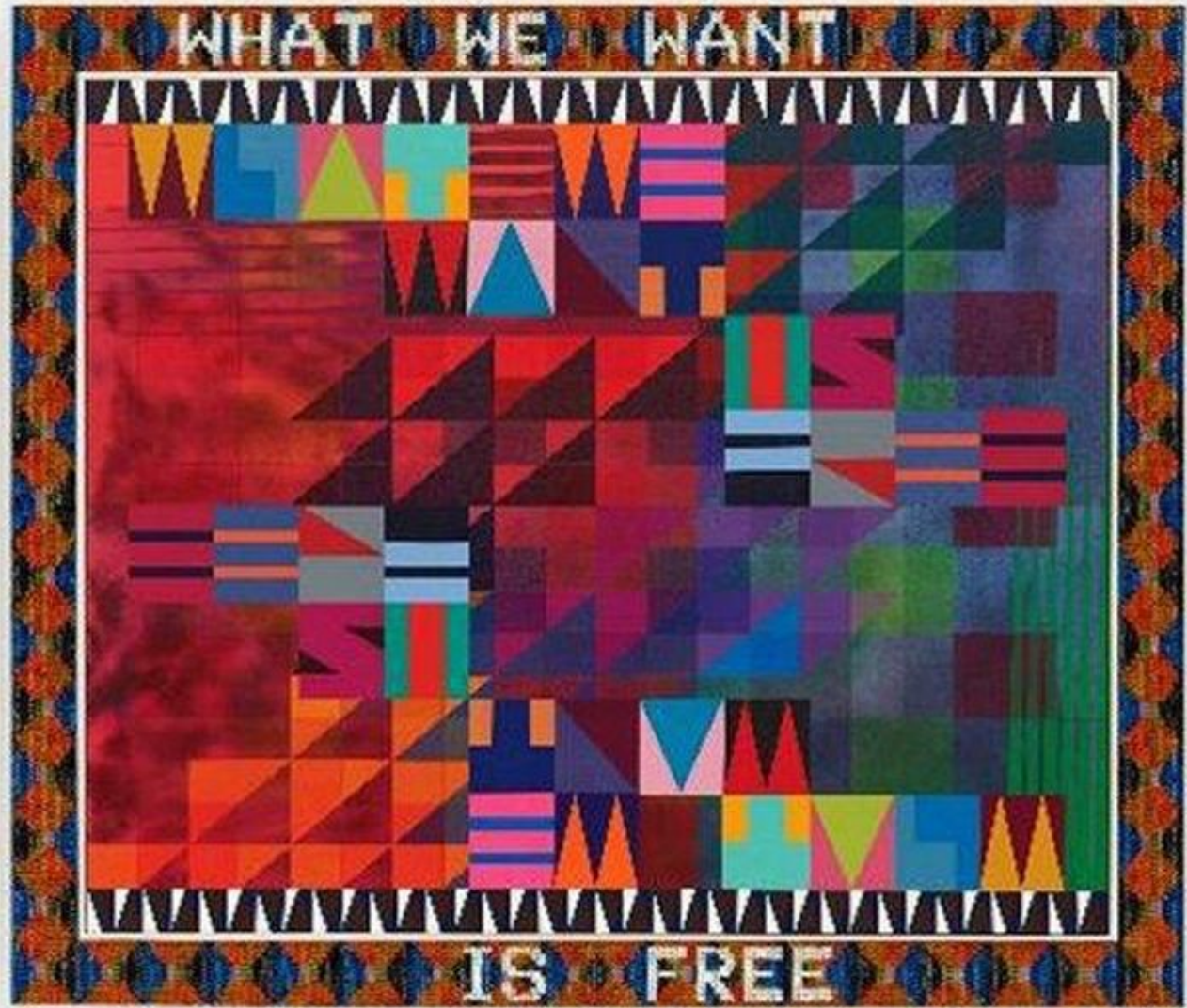
Cindy Sherman, Untitled (MP #212  
edition 6/6), 1989, Color photograph,  
2010.23

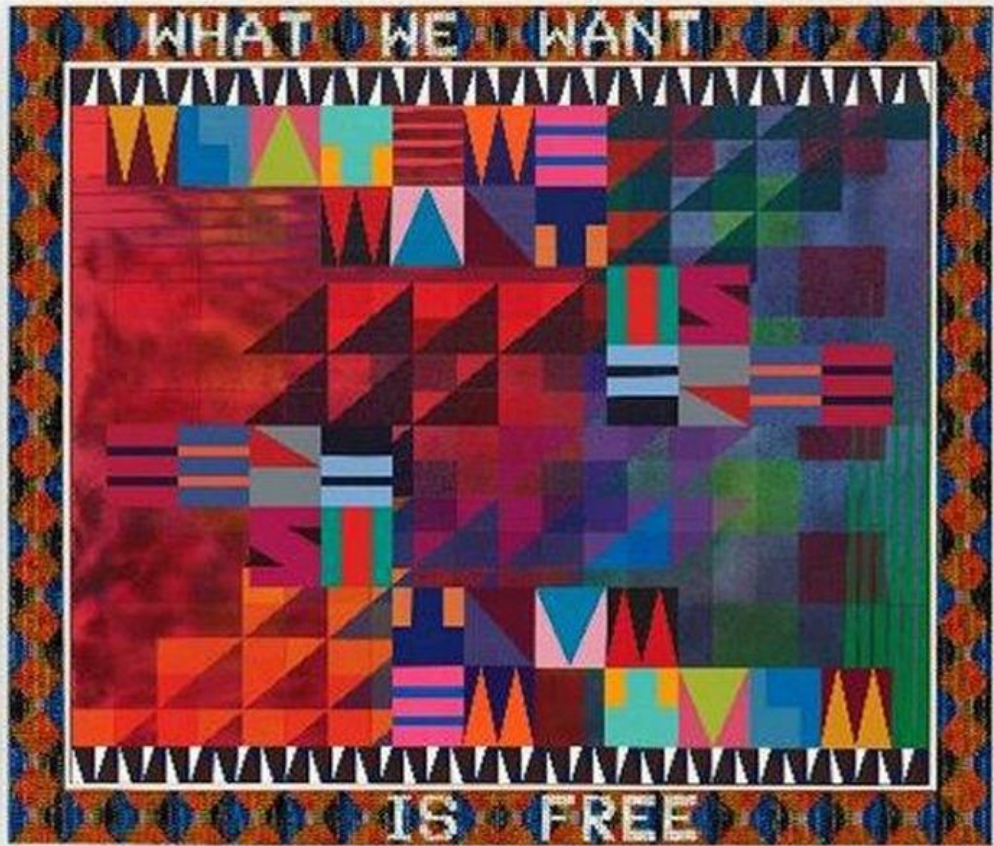


Ambrogio de Predis, *Portrait of a Woman*, about 1490, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan, Italy



Jeffrey Gibson, *WHAT WE WANT IS FREE*, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, glass beads and artificial sinew inset into wood frame, 2021.28





L: [pinterest.com](https://pinterest.com),  
[choctawnation.com](https://choctawnation.com);  
R: [choctaw.org](https://choctaw.org)





Shahzia Sikander, *Arose*, 2020,  
Glass mosaic with patinated brass,  
2021.10

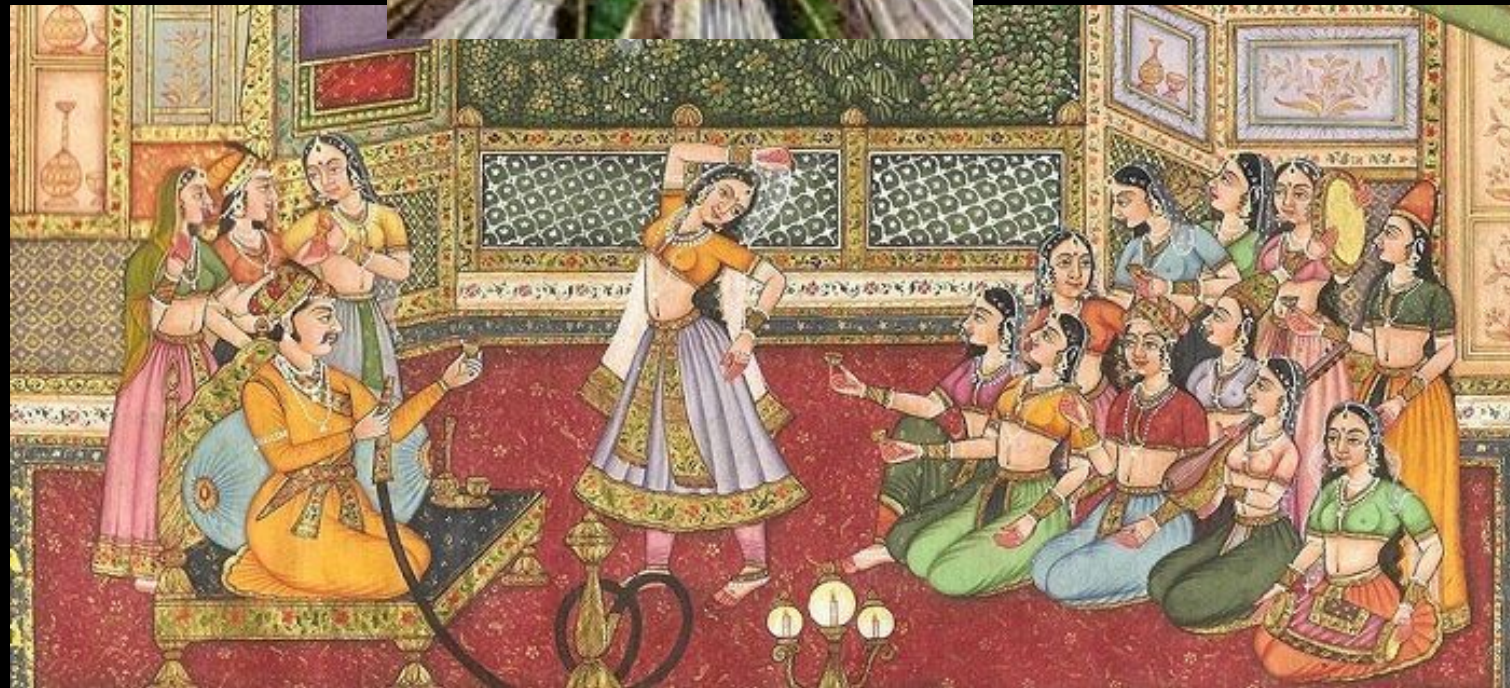




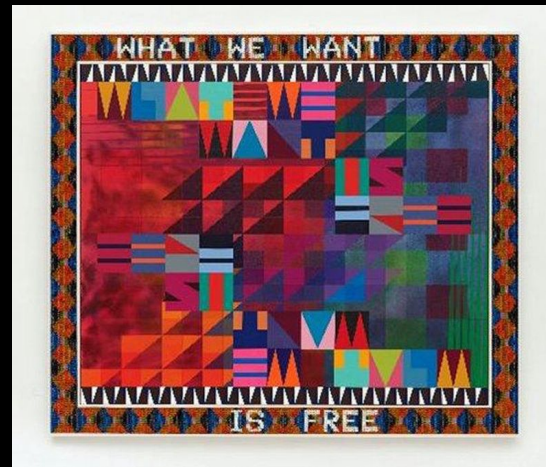
L: [www.thompson-morgan.com](http://www.thompson-morgan.com)

R: [pbs.org](http://pbs.org)





[www.culturalindia.net/indian-art/paintings/miniature.html](http://www.culturalindia.net/indian-art/paintings/miniature.html)



# Resources

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/modernism>

[https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/what-is-modern-art/)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_art)

<https://mymodernmet.com/what-is-contemporary-art-definition/>

[https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom\\_resources/curricula/contemporary\\_art/background1.html](https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/contemporary_art/background1.html)