

Art & Society

Resources that emphasize the role of art in everyday life

Guernica (protest and warning)

Pablo Picasso

Guernica is Picasso's powerful antiwar statement. It was painted in reaction to the burning of Guernica, a Basque village in northern Spain. The village burned for three days and 1600 civilians were killed or wounded. The painting toured the world to alert people to the threat of fascism.

www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a_nav/guernica_nav/main_guerfrm.html

Detroit Industry Fresco (historical record and cultural and social commentary)

Diego Rivera

Rivera celebrates the automobile and technology in the new Industrial Age of Detroit. Done in 1932 the murals depict the races that make up the North American workforce, the auto industry and other Detroit industries. There are pictures of the automotive workers on the assembly line at the Ford River Rouge Plant and inserts showing the daily life of the automotive workers.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/larasteinpardo/2295023634/>

The Great Migration (historical record, cultural and social commentary)

Jacob Lawrence

The Great Migration is a story in paintings which illustrates the movement of large numbers of African Americans between 1916 and 1919 from the South to the North, hoping for better jobs, better pay and better lives.

www.columbia.edu/itc/history/odonnell/w1010/edit/migration/migration.html

Marilyn Painting / Campbell Soup Cans (commentary on popular culture)

Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol was best known for mass produced images of mass produced objects. His exploration of pop art in the 1960s helped popularize the movement.

http://www.coskunfineart.com/exhibition_details.asp?exhID=18

<http://www.webexhibits.org/colorart/marilyns.html>

www.artinthepicture.com/artists/AndyWarhol

The Problem We All Live With, 1964

The Golden Rule, 1961 (documentation and commentary on civil rights, diversity and poverty in The United States)

Norman Rockwell

Norman Rockwell illustrated family life in the United States in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1943, inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's address to Congress, he painted the Four Freedoms, Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Worship, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear, using

his art to document the foundation of our democracy. From 1963 to 1973 Rockwell used his art to illustrate some of the deepest concerns of the American people including civil rights and the war on poverty.

http://detroit.about.com/od/museums/ss/Norman_Rockwell_3.htm

www.normanrockwell.com

The Scream (personal expression)

Edvard Munch

Munch was a Norwegian painter who helped develop German expressionism. His work often portrayed themes of misery, sickness and death.

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/munch/munch.scream.jpg>

www.writedesignonline.com/.../munch.scream

Disasters of War (anti-war protest)

Francisco Goya

The Spanish artist Francisco Goya sketched a series of ink images, **Disasters of War**, that show the inhuman levels reached during the Peninsular War.

<http://goya.unizar.es/InfoGoya/Work/Desastres.html>

The Great Migration: An American Story

Jacob Lawrence

This is the children's picture book of Lawrence's migration paintings. The pictures tell the story of the African Americans who left the rural South in the early twentieth century to find a better life in the industrial North.

Employment of Negroes in Agriculture (1934)

Earle Richardson

Richardson shows Negroes working barefoot in a Southern cotton field in this Public Works of Art Project.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanartmuseum/3314690768/>

Top of the Line (1992)

Thornton Dial Sr.

Top of the Line is Dial's response in art to the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

<http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artwork/?id=33718>

Tenement Flats

Millard Sheets

Sheets paints the Bunker Hill neighborhood of Los Angeles, home to poor families in the 1930s.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanartmuseum/3267571402/>

Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride

James Prigoff and Robin J. Dunitz

This is a book of African American murals including images of African American life and culture.

The following CDs offer a picture of American society. Some of the songs document the lives of American workers and others serve as a protest against discrimination.

American Industrial Ballads

Pete Seeger

Generations of Folk Protest and Politics

Pete Seeger

We Shall Overcome

Pete Seeger