

Contemporary Arts

Lesson 1

Fundamentals of Contemporary Arts

Art

- Can be defined as the **expression of creativity and imagination** through various techniques and media, producing works to fulfill a variety of purposes.
- Tool for communication
- **Two Major Kinds of Art:**
 - **Visual Art** - tangible *eg painting, sculptures*
 - **Performing Arts** - body as art *eg dancing*

Angono Petroglyphs

- Angono, Rizal the Art Capital of Pilipins
- Cave drawings
- **Carlos “Botong” Francisco** (National Artist of Visual Arts)

Integrative Art

- Interdisciplinary art, art research, development, production or artistic creation of work
- Usually focuses on two or more art discipline to create art
- Best example is Theatre

Modern Art

- Works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries (1880-1960s)
- More self expressive
- Usually done in canvases

Contemporary Art

- The art of now
- References works created after the 1960s to the present
- More about experimentation and freedom
- Usually made from non-traditional materials

7 Contemporary Art forms

Music

- Appeals the sense of hearing, composed by combining notes and harmony
- Defined as the manipulation of sound and silence.
- Blends in different elements such as pitch, rhythm, dynamics, timbre, and texture to create sound.
- **Music Genre:** Art Music, Popular Music, Traditional Music

Dance

- Art of human form is used, mobilized and choreographed in specific time, form, and space

- Movements have aesthetic value and often performed accompanied by music
- **Dance styles:** Traditional, Ballet, Hip-hop, Belly dance

Literature

- Art form of language through combined use of words, creating meaning and experience
- Can be written or spoken

Film

- Technological translation of theater, special effects are utilized to enhance story telling
- Uses different camera angles, camera shots and style

Theatre

- Art form of performance, dramatic text is portrayed on stage by actors
- Combination of both visual and performance arts

Architecture Design and Allied Arts

- Structure that meant to be used as shelter
- Relies on the design and purpose of the structure
- Example: Burnham Park

Visual Arts

- Painting, photography, or sculpture
- Appears primary to the visual sense and typically exist in permanent form
 - Fine Arts
 - Decorative Arts
 - Contemporary Arts

Lesson 2

Contexts of Art

Context

- Refers to conditions, circumstances, and occurrences affecting production
- Set of background information that enables us to formulate meanings about arts

“What happens to an object when it is removed from its original context and changes function” Basically it loses its original meaning and is rebuilt through interpretation of the viewers

Bulul *Bul-ul*

- Human like figure made of hardwood
- Believed to be a granary god that assures the community of a bountiful harvest
- Contains element of sculpture, yet it is not exactly regarded as one by its makers.

Four different Context of Art

A. Artist's Background

- **age, gender, culture, economic conditions, social environment, and disposition** affect art production

- **mode of production**, which encompasses the kind of materials accessible to the artists as well as the **conditions surrounding labor**, also hope the work produced by the artist
- artist's **initiation and training**
- **mediums, techniques, and styles** in traditional art
- Some artists deliberately foreground their **cultural identity** in their works

Julie LLuch

- Iligan City
- Often emphasizes her female identity and personal experiences in many of her terracotta works.
- ***"Cutting Onions Always Makes me Cry" 1988***

B. Nature

- Source of inspiration and wellspring of materials for art production
- Evocative of the people's belief that spirits reside with people in the natural environment.
- also seen as a force that one has to contend with.
- The availability of resources for construction is not the only factor considered but also environmental conditions such as topography and climate

T'nalak

- uses abaca fibers stripped from the trunk of banana tree and colored with red and black dyes naturally extracted from roots and leaves of plants.

D. Everyday life

- lies not only in its aesthetic appearance but also in its functionality and its value to the community that produced it
- changes in landscape, innovations in technology, and the popular types of media
- Artists working in the contemporary idiom have been increasingly drawn to scenes, objects, and issues in everyday life

E. Society, Politics and Economy, and History

- communicative and evocative potentials of art have been harnessed to **support the colonial order**, as exemplified by the proliferation of religious art during the Spanish colonial period.
- Employed to advance political agenda
- How the language of art has been employed to assert the artist's creative agency, to **resist ideological structures, to inspire people, as well as to initiate change.**

Brief History of Philippine Art

Pre Conquest

- Everyday expressions were all integrated within rituals that marked significant moments in a community's life.
- Hunter Gatherer Society (They were Nomads - they did not have any permanent settlements.)

Oral Story Telling

- When they told stories about hunt, this form is ORAL STORYTELLING marked the beginning of LITERATURE.

Play Acting

- When they imitated the movements of the animals that they hunted

Manunggul Jar

- Jar that serves as the burial method
- The remains are put inside the huge ass jar

Cañao or Kanyaw

- a ritual dance performed during native feasts or celebration in the highlands of the Cordillera

Islamic Colonial 13th century to the present

Tawhid

- Doctrine or belief that emphasizes the IMPERMANENCE of NATURE and the GREATNESS of DIVINE BEING
- Negates materiality

Islamic Art in Relation to Tawhid

Interior Mosque “toward contemplation of the divine”

- elaborate, abstract patterns of reliefs.
- draw the attention away from the concrete object
- in other words, away from human forms and nature
- to compel the believer to engage in mental concentration.

Mihrab (Niche) and Qibla (Wall)

- are oriented toward the west – may it be in Sultan Kudarat or in Quiapo, Manila
- Oriented toward Mecca (Holiest kememe in Saudi Arab)

Dome

- tell us about how the order of universe is imagined
- “All levels of cosmic experience”
- Octagonal bases = spirit
- Four sided main base = earth or material world
- Dome = heaven

Torogan

- derived from the word “torog” which means sleep

Sarimanok

- mythical bird of Maranao

Spanish Colonial Period 1521-1898

- 333 years
- 3G: God, Glory, Gold

Colonizers used art to:

1. propagate the catholic faith through beautiful images
2. explain concepts behind Catholicism
3. tell stories of Christ's life and passion

Art forms during the Spanish Regime: Religious Art, Lowland Christian Art, Folk Art

Churches

- Baroque style - Characterized by grandeur, drama, and elaborate details
- Extensive use of decoration and ornamentation
- European inspired
- E.g Paoay Church, Ilocos Norte

Trompe L'oeil "*Fooling the Eye*"

- Optical Illusion
- Painting style used in Taal Basilica, Batangas

Santo Viacrucis

- drawings/paintings in walls in churches

> Performance Arts

- **Pasyon** - biblical narration of Christ's passion chanted in improvised melody
- **Sarswela (Zarzuela)** - operetta which features singing and dancing with prose dialogue
- **Senakulo** - dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Christ
- **Komedyang** - colorful theatrical tradition that describes the conflicts between the Muslims and the Christians

> Media and Literature

Doctrina Christiana - first printed book in the Philippines compiling song lyrics, commandments, sacraments, and other catechetical material

Kundiman - Traditional Filipino Love Song

> Paintings

- **Langit, Lupa at Impyerno (Heaven, Earth and Hell)** by **Jose Luciano Dans, 1850**
- **Chiaroscuro** - interplay of light and dark and their contrast
- Landscapes, still life, and genre were popular choices

American Colonial to the Postwar Republic 1946-1969

- Americans bought the Philippines for 40 million from the Treaty of Paris
- Filipino playwrights who had just undergone the Philippine Revolution of 1898 against Spain now found themselves confronted by censorship with the issuance of the Sedition Law.
- **Sedition Law** - is the criminal act of inciting revolt or rebellion against established authority, typically involving speech, writings, or actions that encourage the overthrow of a government

> Performing Arts

1. Tanikalang Ginto by Juan Abad
2. Hindi ako Patay by Juan Matapang Cruz
3. Kahapon, ngayon, at bukas by Audrey Tolentino

Drama Simbolico - one-act play came to represent a deep and profound yearning for freedom.

Lingua Franca

- English

Fernando Amorsolo

- is a portraitist and painter of Philippine landscape.
- The first National Artist in 1972.
- Dalagang Bukid and Making of the Philippine Flag, Planting Rice, Harvesting Scene

Guillermo Tolentino

- Amorsolos counterpart in sculpture
- National Artist in 1973
- UP Oble, Bonifacio Monument

Japanese Occupation 1941-1945

- Art production once again tilted to fulfill the agenda and demands of the new colonial order
- The Japanese forces led the formation of the Great East Asia CoProsperity Sphere
- **“Asia of Asians”**
- Genre paintings were the most widely produced, particularly those that presented a neutral relationship between the Filipinos and the Japanese through works that showed the normality of daily living

Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

- propaganda movement that sought to create a PanAsian identity that rejected Western traditions
- The production of images, music, and texts underwent scrutiny.
- Expressions deemed subversive or antiJapanese led to torturous consequences, even death.

Felipe Padilla de Leon

- The composer National Artist for Music
- Composed “Awit sa Paglikha ng Bagong Pilipinas”
- Declared as the anthem during the Japanese period

Sylvia La Torre

- Sa Bukiran

Neo-realism

- seeking to deal realistically with the events leading up to the war and with the social problems that were engendered during the period and afterwards.

Abstract

- art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead uses shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect

Cesar Legaspi

- Ritual, 1951

Hernando R. Ocampo

- Genesis, 1968

70s to Contemporary

- Martial Law was declared on September 21, 1972.
- **New Society or Bagong Lipunan**, which worked toward the rebirth of a long-lost civilization.
- Aspiration of modernization and development.
- Many cultural projects were ensued

- **Martial Law Era Anthem entitled “Bagong Pagsilang”**

The CCP as Shrine for the Arts

- Created on 25th June 1966 through Executive Order 30 and inaugurated in 1969, the year Marcos was elected to his second term as Philippine President.

Social Realism (SR)

- Emerged during the intense political ferment of the 70s and the 80s was Social Realism or SR. Using various mediums and styles, SR, is a form of protest art that exposes the sociopolitical issues and struggles of the times.

Antipas Delotavo

- Itak sa Puso ni Mang Juan, 1978