

Assignment 5 · A Comparative Analysis of Modernist Art, 1900-1945: Surrealism

Due: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

(Submit your assignment in PDF format by 11:59 pm to vsioufas-lalli@ncc.commnet.edu and **please** label file ('Save As') with first name initial, last name and assignment #. ex. HJonesHW5)

Use the handout, *An Introduction to Visual Art Forms*, which is available on the class website under **ARTH 1003 for reference**.



FIGURE 1
Wifredo Lam
The Jungle (La Jungla)
1943
American Surrealist
Gouache on paper mounted on canvas
7' 10 1/4" x 7' 6 1/2"
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Object/Accession # 140.1945
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/34666>



FIGURE 2
Meret Oppenheim
Object (Le Déjeuner en fourrure)
1936
European Surrealist
Fur-covered cup 4 3/8" diameter; saucer 9 3/8" diameter; spoon 8" long.
Museum of Modern Art, New York.
Object/Accession#130.1946.a-c
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/80997>

For this assignment you are conducting a **comparative analysis of Figure 1 and Figure 2**, in a minimum of two pages, with footnotes. Your assignment is to note the differences and/or similarities between these two works based on details regarding 1) **art form**, 2)

medium, 3) **presentation** (representational, abstract, nonrepresentational) 4) **subject matter and content**, and 5) one prominent **element of art**. Provide an introduction and conclusion.

This is a comparative analysis so each of these points are discussed in relation to both works. An example is given below. **Use the links provided to MoMA for details about these two artworks**, your textbook, and/or any online scholarly resources such as Encyclopedia Britannica, JSTOR, or any of the resources listed on the Resources page of our class website. If doing an online search of your own, be particular about your resources. Any resource that ends with .edu or .org is fine.

The Modernist movement is linked to the first half of the 20th century, from 1900 to 1945. In this comparative analysis two artists of the Surrealist movement and their works, *The Jungle* (Figure 1) by Wifredo Lam, and *Object* (Figure 2) by Meret Oppenheim, will be discussed in comparison based on art form, medium, presentation, subject matter, and one defining element of art. These two Surrealist artists represent two diverse avenues explored in regard to subject matter and its representation. Surrealist artists worked with abstract biomorphic subjects, and reality-based subject matter put together in unusual ways.¹ Figure 1 and Figure 2 are characteristic examples of these modes of expression.

Figure 1, *The Jungle*, was created by the Cuban born artist, Wifredo Lam, who ended up moving to Europe in his twenties and thirties where he befriended Pablo Picasso and established himself as an important member of the Surrealist movement.² Figure 2, *Object*, on the other hand was created by the Swiss-German artist, Meret Oppenheim, who moved to Paris in 1932 and became an active participant of the Surrealists; it is in Paris that she also met Pablo Picasso who inspired this work.³ The art form that is Figure 1 is...

¹ Valerie Sioufas-Lalli, *ARTH 1003: Global Modern Art History: 1850 to the Present, Modernism in Europe, 1900 to 1945* (NCC Slide Presentation, Spring 2024) Slide 23, accessed April 15, 2024, https://nccarthistory.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/1/4/121443569/29modernism_in_europe1914to45sp24.pdf

² 'Wifredo Lam, *The Jungle*,' Museum of Modern Art, accessed April 15, 2024, <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/34666>

³ 'Meret Oppenheim, *Object*,' Museum of Modern Art, accessed April 15, 2024, <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/80997>