

Questions to Ponder
8th Session
Post WWII Maverick Artists

This session belongs to you, the members of this Study Group. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas. Decide which of these questions you would like to talk about or bring up something else that relates to these artists and the period and to which you would like to comment.

General Questions-

1. The work of which of the artists do you think is most relevant today?
2. What about one of these artists would you like to explore in more depth? Why?
3. Which of the artists we viewed would you call the most “Maverick” and why?
4. On which of these artists do you think the ideas of Marcel Duchamp had the greatest impact and why?
5. What did you find most interesting about these ‘Maverick’ artists?
6. The work of which artist did you like best and why?
7. The work of which artist did you prefer least and why?

General Questions about the period

1. What major part of the culture of this Post WWII period in the US do you think these artists best reflected?
2. Which of the artists do you think had the most profound affect upon art? Why?
3. What is your assessment of Pop Art?
4. What do you think about the idea that art should relate to life and be for the ordinary person?
5. How do you feel about the direction Marcel Duchamp led art?
6. What is your definition of art? What do you think makes something a work of art?
7. Why do you think neo dada artists rebelled against abstract expressionism?

Robert Rauschenberg

1. Rauschenberg said: “Painting relates to both art and life. Neither can be made (I try to act in the gap between the two)”. How do you think this is illustrated in his art?
2. Rauschenberg believed in collaboration, sharing, and being generous. In what ways did you see this in his art?
3. Rauschenberg believed in breaking boundaries and rules. If a boundary did not exist, he said to invent one. In what ways is this reflected in his art? What do you think of the advice?
4. Rauschenberg advised to look for materials that inspire you. How do you think this advice shows in his work? What do you think of this advice?
5. Rauschenberg advised “to make a difference in your world”. What do you think he did that made a difference? Do you think other artists should follow his advice?

6. What did you like best and worse about the work of Robert Rauschenberg? Why?

Jasper Johns

1. Jasper Johns painted things that the “mind already knows.” What do you think he accomplished by doing this in his art?
2. In the beginning of his career, Jasper Johns believed that he should not explain his art nor include references to his personal life in his work. What do you think of that approach?
3. Johns repeated the same object or symbol. What do you think he accomplished by doing this?
4. How did he use the theme of seeing/looking in his work?
5. What is your assessment of Johns’s gray paintings.
6. Why do you think Johns spent almost ten years producing his “Hatch” paintings?
7. What do you think was Johns’ most effective use of references to art of other artists?
8. In in later career Johns changed course and included his personal life and concerns in his work. What do you think of his later approach?
9. Why do you think Jasper Johns is regarded as a “great artist”?

Andy Warhol

1. In what ways do you think Andy’s early childhood impacted his art?
2. What is your evaluation of his early commercial art?
3. What was the impact of Andy selecting things like soup cans and coke for his art?
4. What do you think is the most important idea Andy understand about the Post WWII culture that was reflected in his art?
5. Andy absorbed what was around him and commented about it in his art. What do you think he “got wrong”?
6. What do you think makes Andy’s art controversial?
7. Explain how Andy brought together fame and religion.
8. In what ways did Andy Warhol impact the art that came after him?
9. What do you think of Andy of mixing art and business?
10. How did Andy express the “spiritual” in his art?
11. Why do you think people are so interested in Andy Warhol? Do you think they should be?