

## Art in Its Time

Cornell's Adult University Summer 2023

### The 1930's

#### Historical Overview

- 1929 Wall Street collapses, ushering in the Great Depression
- 1933 Franklin Roosevelt becomes President and initiates a New Deal  
Ongoing "Harlem Renaissance"
- 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
- 1936 Nuremburg Laws curtail rights of the Jews in Germany  
Roosevelt wins a second term
- 1939 World War II begins in Europe

#### Essential Readings

Chapter 12 from The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck:

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/grape-of-wrath.pdf>

Introduction to the murals of Roosevelt Island

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HFJ-Revealed-2016.pdf>

I Paint What I See by E. B. White:

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/WHITE-I-Paint-What-I-See.pdf>

#### Suggested Readings

Excerpts from Studs Terkel's Hard Times

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Native-American.pdf>

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Turkel-interview.pdf>

Measure Twice by Margaret Talbot from April 26, 2021 New Yorker

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/26/did-home-economics-empower-women>

Selections from Langston Hughes

#### For Further Exploration

Films: The Wizard of Oz Gone With the Wind

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

The Gold Diggers of 1933

Books: Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by and Walker Evans

You Have Seen Their Faces by Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White

Playlist: Woody Guthrie, Duke Ellington, Judy Garland

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

### The 1940's

#### Historical Overview

- 1941 Battle of Britain
- 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked and the U.S. enters the war 1945  
War ends in May in the European Theater  
The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki contribute to the end of the war with Japan
- 1945 Nuremburg Trials reveal extent of the Holocaust

- G.I. Bill enables veterans to pursue higher education
- 1946-64 “Baby Boom” era
- 1947 House Un-American Committee active; The Hollywood Blacklist and McCarthyism
- 1948 Truman integrates U.S. armed forces

#### Essential Readings

Chapter 5 of Franklin and Winston by Jon Meacham

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Franklin-and-Winston-reading.pdf>

The introduction from American Abstract Artists

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AAA-catalogue-essay.pdf>

A selection from The History of Gender

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-1.pdf>

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-2.pdf>

#### Suggested Readings

A selection from Studs Terkel’s The Good War- Mr. Rosenblum

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/walter-rosenblum.pdf>

A selection from Hiroshima by John Hersey

#### For Further Exploration

Books: Hiroshima by John Hersey

Films: Netflix series: Transatlantic

The Class of the Century by Brian Frey WSKG

Casablanca

I Know Where I Am Going

Godzilla (Japanese version 1954)

It’s a Wonderful Life

Music: Glenn Miller, Andrews Sisters, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Artie Shaw

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

### **The 1950’s**

#### Historical Overview

1950-3 Korean War

1952 Eisenhower is elected President

A period of “Cold War” continues

Polio outbreak continues until vaccine developed by Jonas Salk in 1955

1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education outlaws segregated schools

1959 Barbie doll created by Ruth Handler and marketed by Mattel

Hollywood Rat Pack: Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop

#### Essential Readings

Prologue to Ninth Street Women by Mary Gabriel

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Ninth-St.-Women.pdf>

#### Suggested Readings

“Fasting Girls: The Emerging Ideal of Slenderness in American Culture” by Joan Jacobs Brumberg (pp. 390-397) in *Women’s America*  
On the Road by Jack Kerouac  
Selections from poems by Allen Ginsberg

#### For Further Exploration

Films: A Streetcar Named Desire  
Rebel Without a Cause  
Ten Commandments  
Ben Hur  
Strangers on a Train  
To Catch a Thief

Music: Elvis, Muddy Waters, Lena Horne, Frank Sinatra  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

#### **The 1960’s Historical Overview**

1960 John Kennedy elected President  
1961 The Cuban Missile Crisis  
1963 Dr. Martin Luther King leads the March on Washington  
1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated  
1964 “Freedom Summer” to register African-American voters in Mississippi  
1966 Gold Medalist Mohammad Ali converts to the Nation of Islam and declares himself a conscientious objector  
1965 Voting Rights Act is passed  
1965 U.S. combat troops sent to Vietnam  
1968 Dr. King is assassinated  
Bobby Kennedy is assassinated  
United Farm Workers under Cesar Chavez seek better working conditions  
Riots in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention  
American Indian Movement (AIM) begun in Minneapolis  
1969 Richard Nixon becomes President  
1969 Willard Straight Hall “take-over” makes national headlines  
1969 Woodstock Concert  
1969 Stonewall Riots

#### Essential Readings

Chapter 3 from *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Vonnegut.pdf>

“Why the Shirelles Mattered: Girl Groups on the Cusp of a Feminist Awakening” by Susan J.

Douglas

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Shirelles-reading.pdf>

Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2005/06/conviction-1964-mississippi-civil-rights-killings-brings-sense-closure-cornell>

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Murders-of-Chaney-Goodman-and-Schwerner.pdf>

Steve McConnell in Studs Terkel's *The Good War*, pps. 580-584  
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Turkel-interview.pdf>

#### Suggested Readings

C.P. Ellis from Studs Terkel's *American Dreams: Lost and Found*  
Hortman Turnbow from Studs Terkel's *American Dreams: Lost and Found*  
Consumer Boycotts in the United States, 1970-1980: Contemporary Events in Historical Perspective:  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23859226?socuuiid=58175705-c7ef-417d-9ad3-7b926ba742d4>  
"The Reason I Sing This Song" from Dorothy Cotton's *If Your Back's Not Bent*

#### For Further Exploration

Books: *Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Films: *The Sound of Music*  
*MASH*  
*Westside Story*  
*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* *Midnight Cowboy*  
"Freedom Riders" on PBS *American Experience* *The Graduate*  
*The Manchurian Candidate*

Music: The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Rolling Stones, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Motown, Harry Belafonte  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

### **The 1970's**

#### Historical Overview

- 1970 Protesting college students shot dead at Kent State University in Ohio
- 1971 Ms. Magazine co-founded by Gloria Steinem
- 1971 Masterpiece Theater debuts
- 1972 Title IX provides equal opportunities for women
- 1973 Vietnam War winds down  
Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion in the United States  
Moosewood Restaurant opens  
Wounded Knee occupied by American Indian Movement members
- 1974 Watergate hearings result in the resignation of President Nixon
- 1976 The United States celebrates the Bicentennial

#### Essential Reading

Betty Friedan from *The Feminine Mystique*, "The Crisis in Women's Identity", pp. 69-79  
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Friedan.pdf>  
Phyllis Schlafly, "The thoughts of one who loves life as a woman..."  
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Schlafly-article.pdf>  
The "Madman Theory" from Stanley Karnow's *Vietnam A History*  
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Karnow-reading.pdf>  
"No More Miss America!" (pp. 380-382) in *The History of Gender in America*  
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-2.pdf>

### Recommended Reading

Ramona Bennett from Studs Terkel's American Dreams: Lost and Found

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Native-American.pdf>

"Hardhats: Construction Workers, Manliness, and the 1970 Pro-War Demonstrations" (pp 347- 358) by

Joshua B. Freeman from The History of Gender in America

"Femininity in the Twentieth Century" (pp. 360-375) from The History of Gender in America

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-1.pdf>

### Recommended Viewing

Agents of Change - available through Netflix- examines the 1969 Straight take-over and the resulting changes

### For Further Exploration:

Books: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown

Roots by Alex Haley

Executioner's Song by Norman Mailer

Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test by Tom Wolfe

Films: Rocky

The Godfather

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

The Deer Hunter

Annie Hall

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (also the book by Ken Kesey)

Apocalypse Now

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Music: Bruce Springsteen, Buffy St. Marie, Marvin Gaye, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Simon and Garfunkel

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9Vvft?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>