A Visual History of the Visual Arts

Part 1: From Impressionism to Surrealism

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The Victorian Age

• The Museum
  – British Museum (1759), Hermitage (1764), Uffizi (1765), Louvre (1793), Prado (1819), …
  – The artwork is conceived for the space of exhibition
  – The artwork is influenced by the chronological succession of styles in the museum
The Victorian Age

- Art becomes abstract, abandons representation
- Influence of instrumental music? Vocal music was always about something, but instrumental music was "abstract".
- Why did it happen in the early 20th century?
- Influence of physics, electricity, chemistry and medicine, all of which showed that there is an invisible underlying layer to the reality that we experience.
- The underlying reality is "abstract".
The Victorian Age

- Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism
  - Eduard Manet (1832, France):
    - “Le Dernier Dejeuner” (1863) - four disconnected characters, violation of the law of perspective, shadows oriented in opposite directions
The Victorian Age

• Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism
  – Eduard Manet (1832, France):
    • “Music in the Tuileries” (1862) - chaotic scene without a focus, no hierarchy, curved trees
The Victorian Age

• Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism
  – Eduard Manet (1832, France):
    • “Boats” (1873) - curved horizon
    • “Boating” (1874) - no horizon
The Victorian Age

- Painting/ From Realism to Impressionism
  - Edgar Degas (1834, France): Movement

  "La Classe de Danse" (1876)
  "La La At the Cirque Fernando" (1879)
This is a chapter in piero scaruffi’s “A Visual History of the Visual Arts”: http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history