

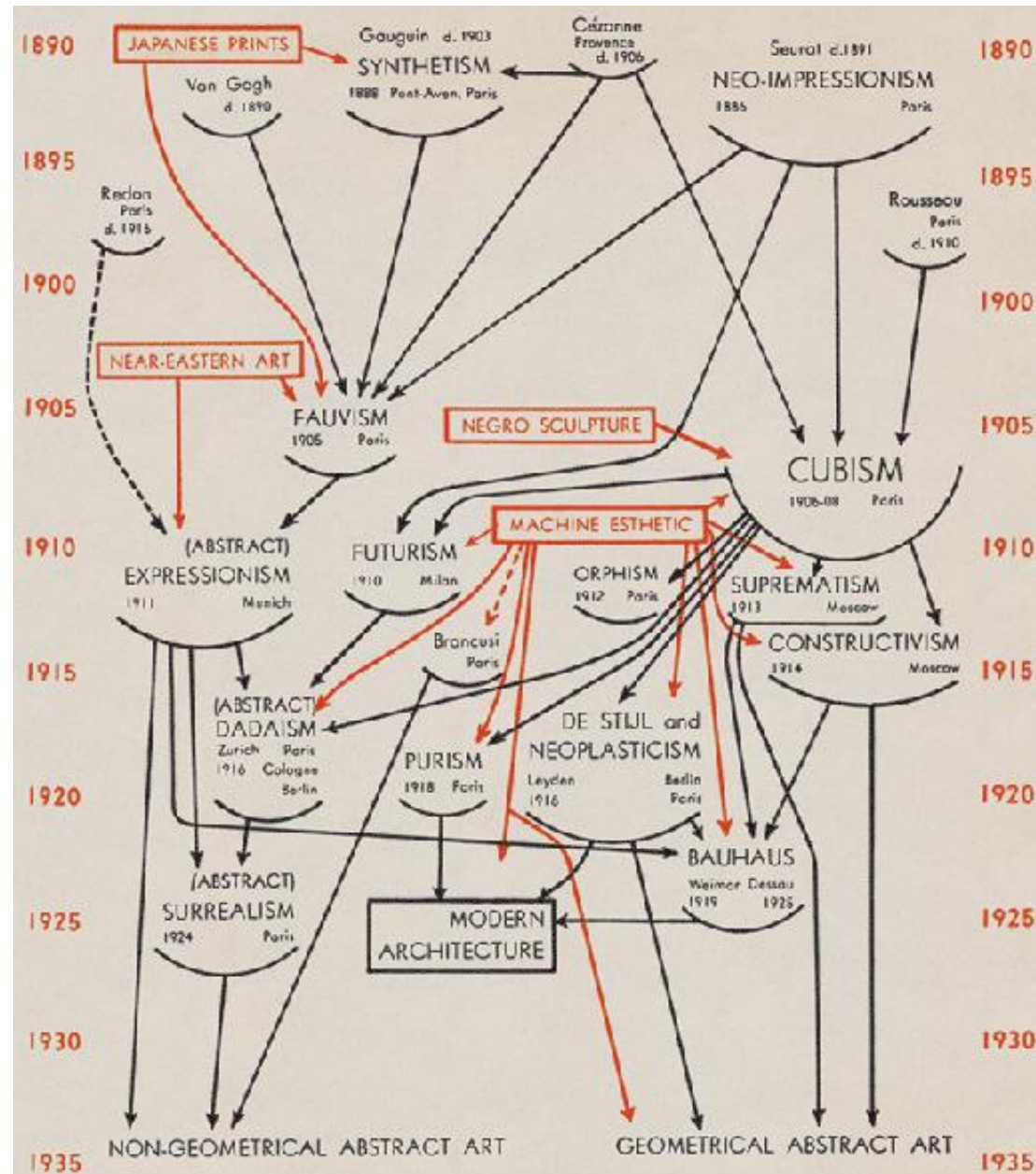
A Visual History of the Visual Arts

Part 2: From Abstract Art to Conceptual Art

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The Space Age

MOMA Flowchart for “Cubism and Abstract Art” (1936)



The Space Age

- **Painting**
 - **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **The center of mass of modernism shifts from Paris to New York**
 - **New York imports cubism (abstraction) and surrealism (automatism), which create the dialectic between the conscious (geometric shapes) and unconscious (spontaneous expression)**
 - **Alienation of humans from the technological world causes angst (while European abstract painters marvel and rejoice)**
 - **Little abstract expressionism in sculpture**

The Space Age

- **Painting**
 - **Abstract Expressionism/Action Painting**
 - **Hans Hofmann (1880, Germany)**
 - **Arshile Gorky (1905, Armenia)**
 - **Wilhelm de Kooning (1904, Holland)**
 - **Jackson Pollock (1912, USA)**
 - **Adolph Gottlieb (1903, USA)**
 - **Robert Motherwell (1915, USA)**
 - **Joan Mitchell (1926, USA)**

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **Arshile Gorky**
 - **Automatism but grounded in autobiography**



“Garden in Sochi” series (1940-41)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - Jackson Pollock
 - The subconscious
 - Jung's influence



“Male and Female” (1942)

“Lavender Mist” (1950)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **Jackson Pollock**
 - **Action painting**
 - **Holistic**
 - **Non-referential**



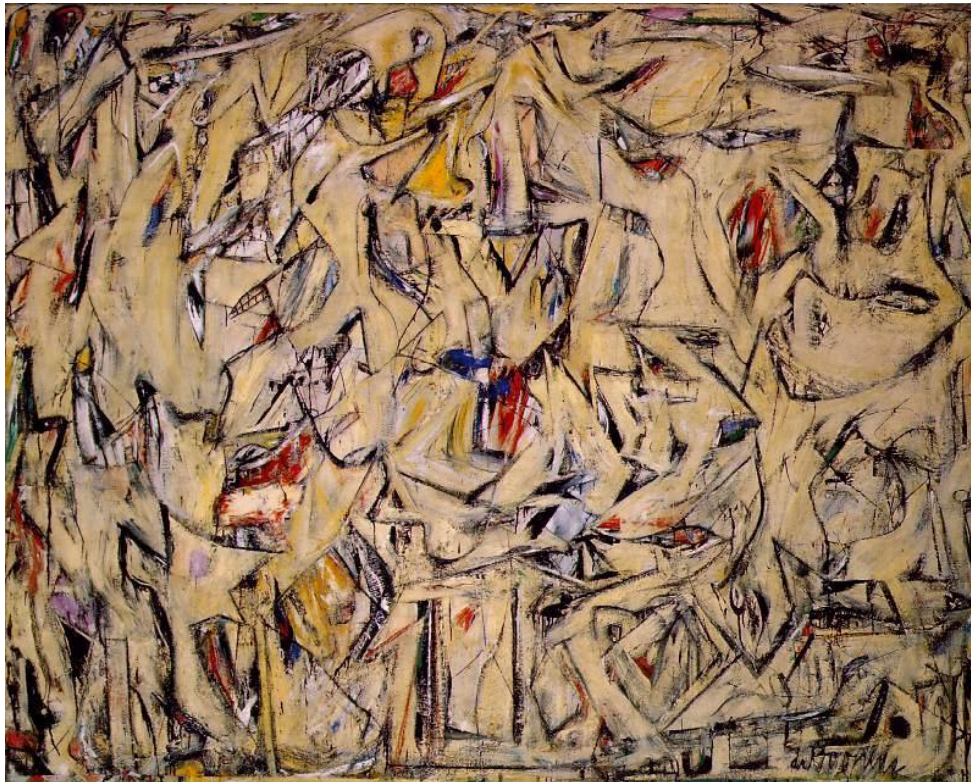
“Autumn Rhythm”
(1950)



“Blue Poles” (1952)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **Wilhelm de Kooning**
 - **More cubist than surrealist**



“Excavation” (1950)



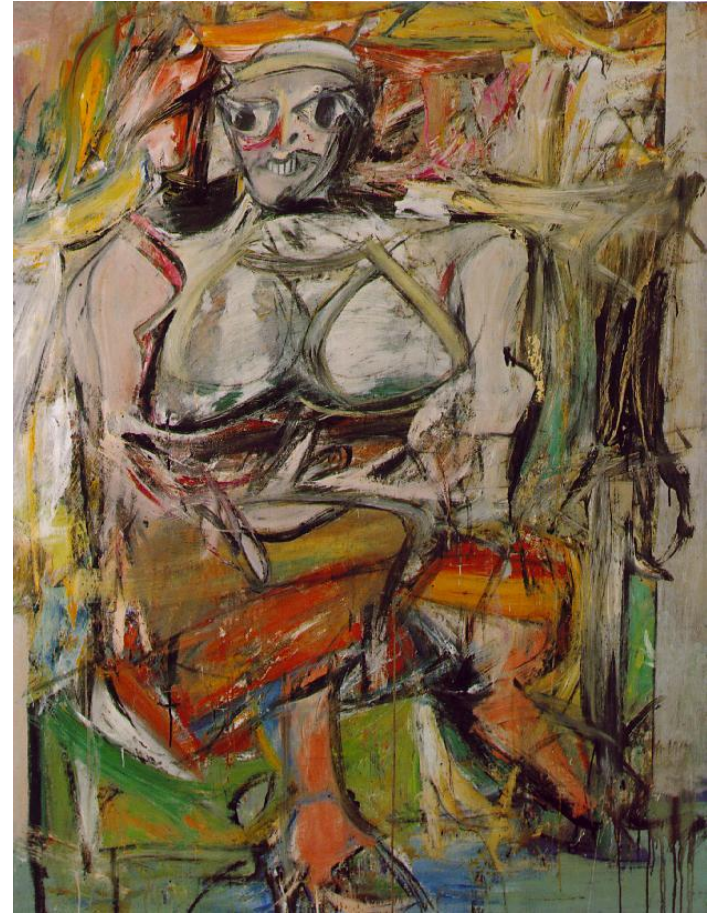
“Attic” (1949)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **Wilhelm de Kooning**
 - **And even expressionist**



“Woman V” (1953)



“Woman I” (1952)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism/ Europe (Art Informel)**
 - Reaction to cubism
 - Tachisme in France (1951)
 - COBRA (1948): Copenhagen (Co), Brussels (Br), Amsterdam (A)
 - Gutai in Japan (1954)



Pierre Soulages (1919)



Georges Mathieu (1921)

The Space Age

- Abstract Expressionism/ Europe (Art Informel)
 - Shozo Shimamoto (1928, Japan) throws bottles of paint at canvases
 - Kazuo Shiraga (1924, Japan) paints with his feet
 - Yves Klein (1928, France) uses women's nude bodies as paintbrushes for his "anthropometries"
 - Shigeko Kubota (1937, Japan) squats over a canvas to create "Vagina Painting" (1965)

Kazuo Shiraga:
“Dynamic of
Red” (1969)



This is a chapter in piero scaruffi's "A Visual History of the Visual Arts": <http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history>