

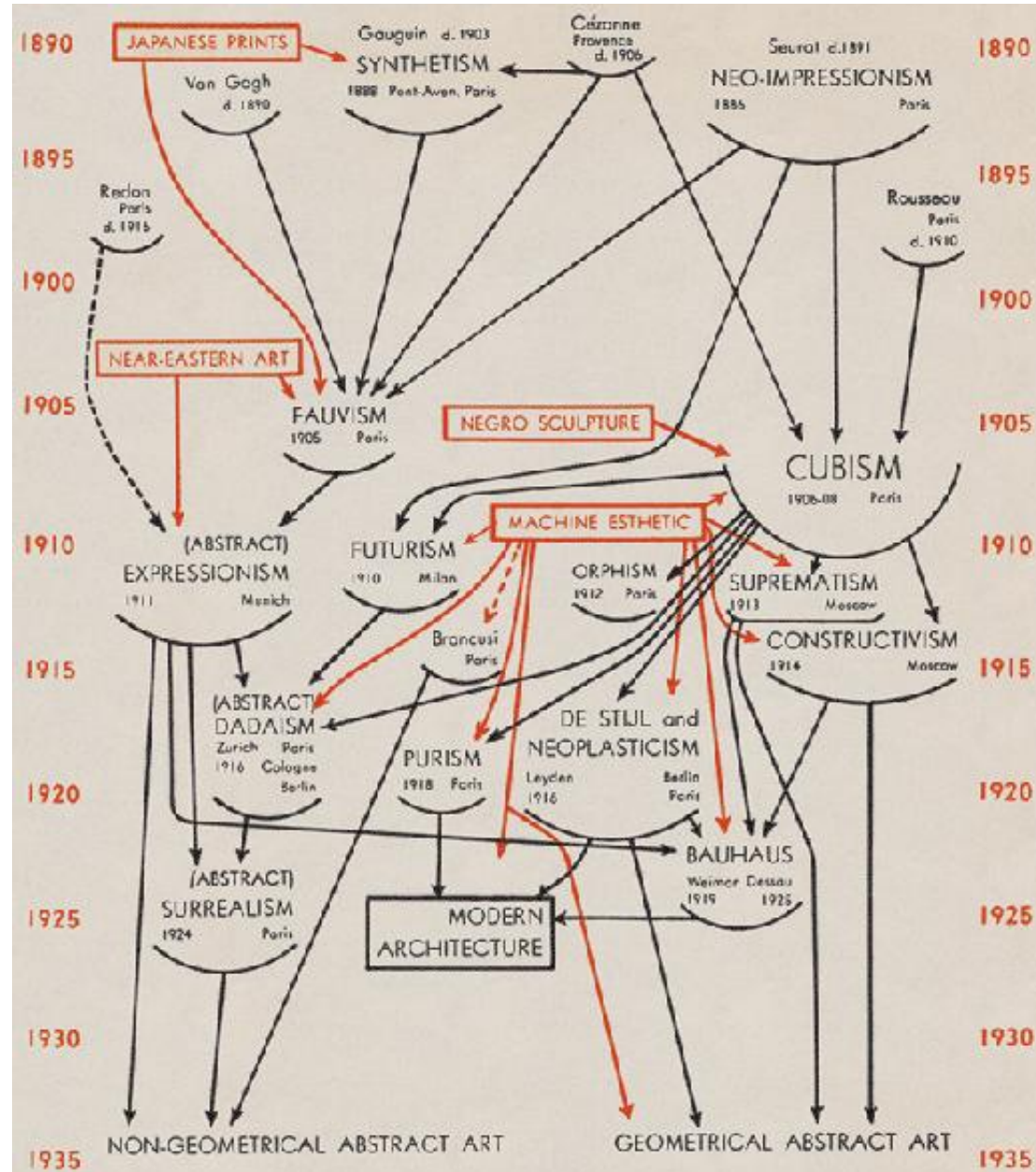
A Visual History of the Visual Arts

Part 2: From Abstract Art to Conceptual Art

Piero Scaruffi
www.scaruffi.com

The Space Age

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



The Space Age

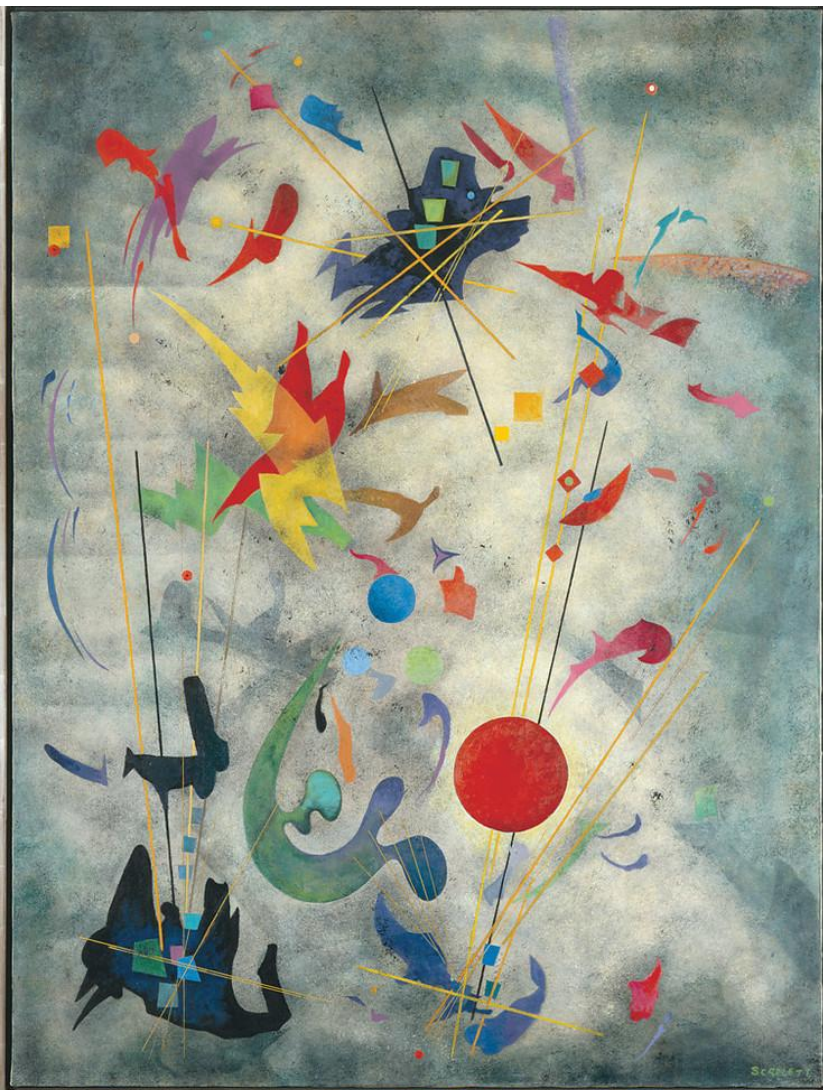
- Painting
 - Abstract Expressionism
 - The center of mass of modernism shifts from Paris to New York
 - New York imports cubism (abstraction) and surrealism (automatism), which create the dialectic between the conscious (geometric shapes) and unconscious (spontaneous expression)
 - Alienation of humans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

The Space Age

- Painting
 - From Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism
 - Rolph Scarlett (1891, USA)
 - Wilhelm de Kooning (1904, Holland)
 - Arshile Gorky (1905, Armenia)
 - Remedios Varo (1908, Spain)
 - Lawrence Kupferman (1909, USA)
 - Enrico Donati (1909, Italy)
 - Roberto Matta (1911, Chile)
 - William Baziotes (1912, USA)
 - Gerome Kamrowski (1914, USA)

The Space Age

Rolph Scarlett: "Abstraction" (1934)

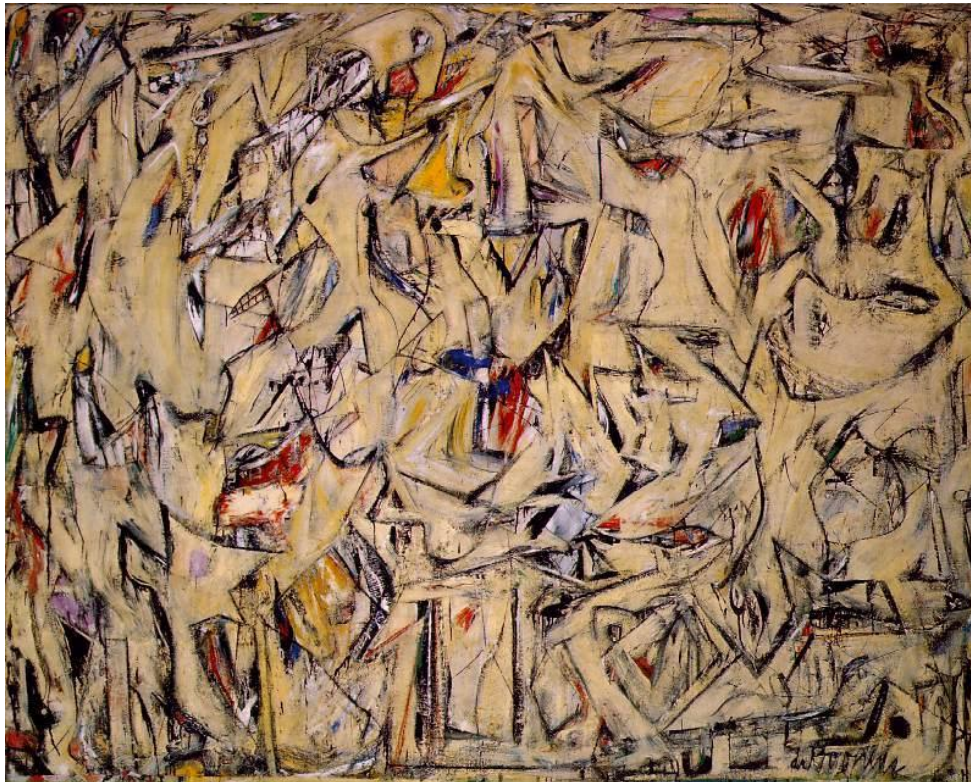


Lawrence Kupferman



The Space Age

- Abstract Expressionism
 - Wilhelm de Kooning (1904, Holland)
 - More cubist than surrealist



“Excavation” (1950)



“Attic” (1949)

The Space Age

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



“Garden in Sochi” series (1940-41)

The Space Age

- Surrealism
 - Alice Rahon (1904, France)



“The Circus” (1945)

The Space Age

- Surrealism
 - Remedios Varo (1908, Spain)



“Harmony” (1956)



“Solar Music” (1955)

The Space Age

- Surrealism
 - Leonora Carrington (1917, England)



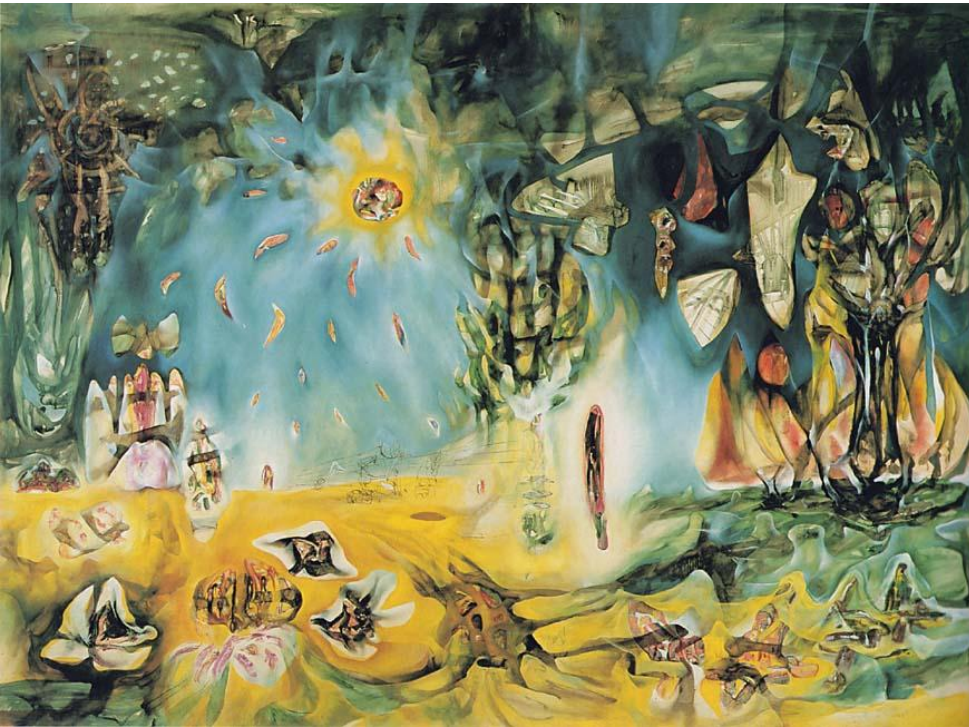
“The Distractions of Dagobert” (1945)

“Darvault” (1950)

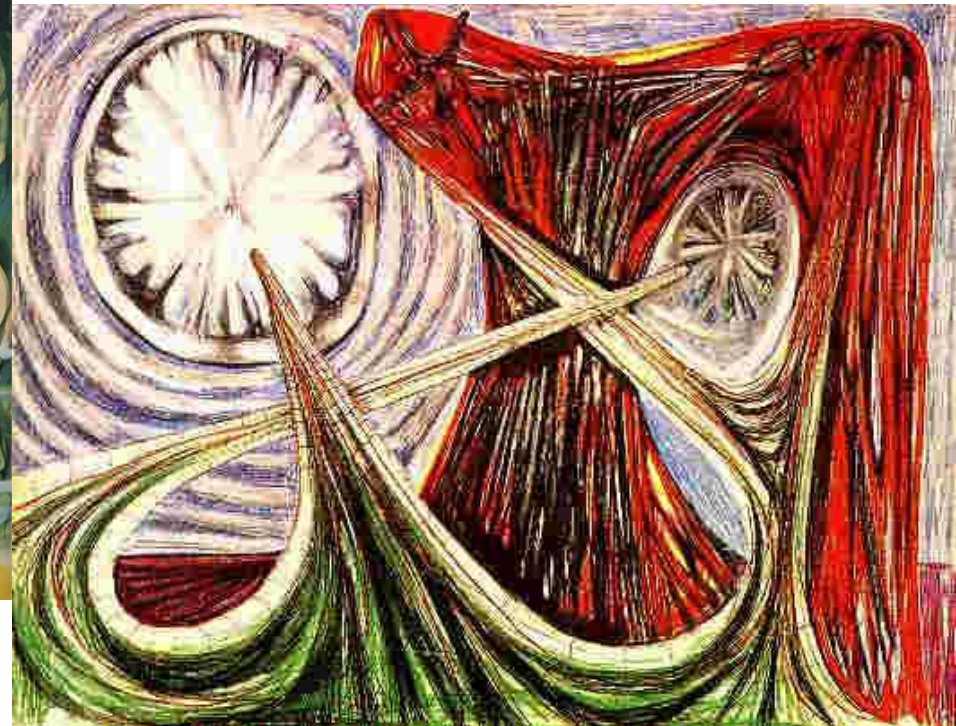


The Space Age

- Abstract Expressionism
 - Roberto Matta (1911, Chile)



“The Earth Is a Man” (1942)



“Space Travel” (1938)

The Space Age

- Painting
 - Abstract Expressionism/Action Painting
 - Hans Hofmann (1880, Germany): teaches in Berkeley in 1930 and New York in 1933
 - Adolph Gottlieb (1903, USA)
 - Jackson Pollock (1912, USA)
 - Robert Motherwell (1915, USA)
 - Joan Mitchell (1926, USA)

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)



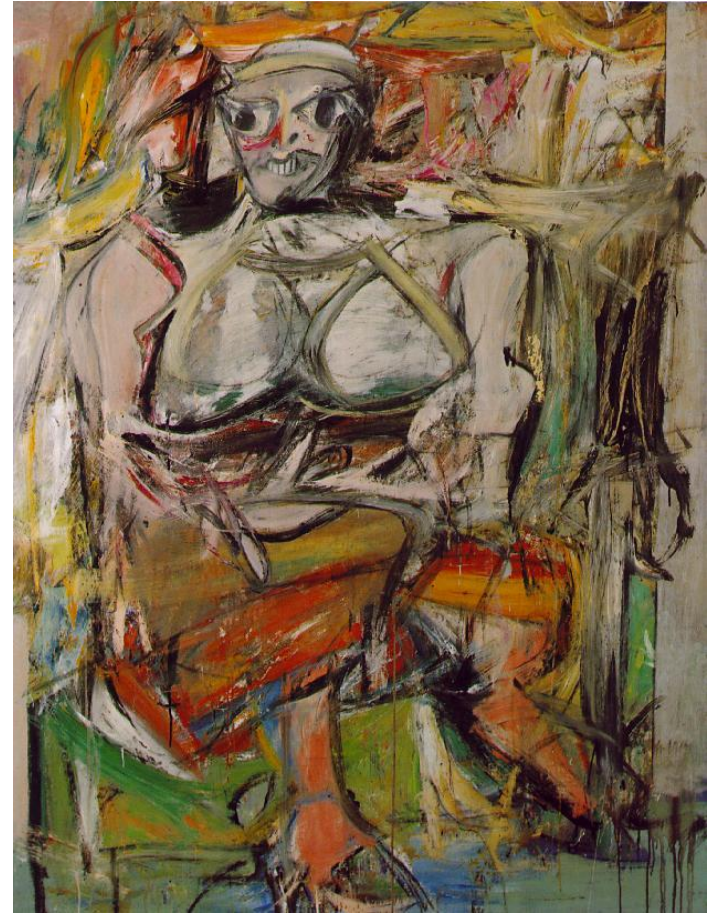
“Blue Poles” (1952)

The Space Age

- **Abstract Expressionism**
 - **Wilhelm de Kooning**
 - **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"
 - Shigeeko 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>