

Robert Rauschenberg

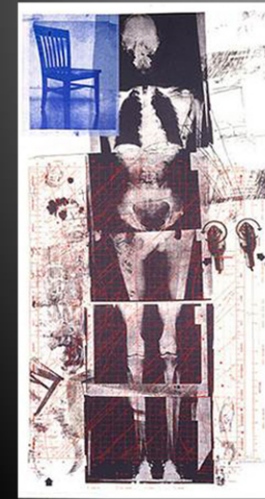
'The artist's job is to be a witness to his time in history.'
His work is about the culture, values and behaviours of his time.

Rauschenberg has dyslexia which helps him in his art. He likes to create prints that combine several different pictures. In an interview he stated that *"I got hooked. Also because I am dyslexic, I was very good at the print workshop economically, because I can see backwards and forwards at the same time! I don't have to proof it, I can already see it!"*
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/r/robert_rauschenberg.html#ixzz1of6bCBwW

Rauschenberg has an interesting use of the lithography in his works. His experimental approach to print processes is seen in the colour lithograph and screen print called 'Booster', which has an astrological chart, magazine images of athletes, the image of a chair and the images of two power drills. This technique used screen printing in 'Booster 183x89cm', Booster came from a series of works called Booster and Seven Studies.



Booster, 1973, 183x89cm



Booster, 1967

Rauschenberg has made a new form of print by pushing beyond what had previously been done before, by combining lithography and screen printing called a 'hybrid' print. Rauschenberg has his body x-rayed to use in the composition to create a life size skeleton. A red astronomer's chart is used to suggest the moment of heavenly bodies by day and year. Booster remains one of the most significant prints of the twentieth century because of its large scale, a watershed that catapulted printmaking into a new era of experimentation. Rauschenberg's use of lithography with screen printing was conceded highly experimental at the time and has been demonstrated in his work titled 'Booster' which has helped it be one of the most significant prints of the twentieth century.

The image is highly autobiographic with a chair and hand drawn marks making it quite personal. This contrasts with the scientific medical scans. The style reinforces the tension between science order and human chaos. This is also a personal tension for Rauschenberg and for printmakers who are typically very neat and exact.

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The technique is very innovative and challenges what is typically viewed as painting or printmaking. The x-rays are not normally used for art and the scratchy personal marks are quite opposite to the exact clinical nature of the x-ray style. Also this is a one-off art work and not a multiple addition like traditional printmaking. Is it a painting that uses print techniques? Or is it a print that acts like a one-off painting. Rauschenberg also explored mixing of the rules between painting and sculpture in his assemblages.

Norman Ackroyd

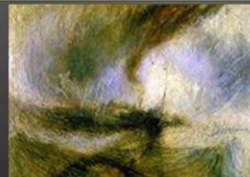
In the 1980s Ackroyd fully emerges as a landscape artist with a deep affinity for the various topographies specific to the British Isles. Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design mounted a traditional exhibition of these works in 2006 and keeps an archive of the artist's work.

Depending on the local, atmospheric conditions and intended mood, his works range from minimalist, nearly abstract impressions, to richly detailed images of specific places and seasons. **Although his work almost never includes the human figure, the landscape subjects he prefers are often ones of age-old human habitation.**

1

The atmospheric power of Ackroyd is similar to that of Turner and Casper David Frederic. What unifies all three artists is the sense that nature is more powerful than man. (Although CDF often has a man included to show how insignificant he is)

2



Ackroyd is a printmaker, painter and teacher. Born in Leeds, Yorkshire. Studied at Leeds College of Art and The Royal College of Art (1961-4). He has taught Printmaking at Manchester College of Art and Design.

He mainly works with naturalistic elements, e.g., hills, clouds, rainbows. Even when depicting rainbows, Ackroyd uses colour only very sparingly. He moves away from stencils and photographic transfers to pure aquatint, beginning the plate sometimes out in the landscape.

In the 1980s Ackroyd emerges as a full-blown landscape artist with a deep affinity for the various topographies specific to the British Isles.

Weather and water are made the stuff of highly experimental and variable compositions. Depending on the locale, atmospheric conditions and intended mood, his works range from minimalist, nearly abstract impressions, to richly detailed images of specific places and seasons.

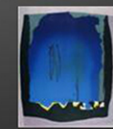
I think his works sits somewhere between impressionism and abstract expressionism. The first as in Monet because he captures the transient affects of light and atmosphere. The second as in Helen Frankenthaler in that his are very personal responses to the scenes. A comparable NZ artist would be Laurence Berry who does landscapes from memory of a place which is also all about personal responses rather than photographic accurate recording.



Monet



Frankenthaler



Berry



4

Differences and similarities

Robert Rauschenberg

- Radical
- Experimental
- Muted
- Gridding
- Scale
- Contrasting
- Expressive
- 3D objects

Rauschenberg's works are described as very experimental in contrast to Jim Dines which are seen as suggestive and forceful. Dine applies marks that suggest force and energy due to the quick application of mark. Scale of Rauschenberg allowed him to create works that are life size. Both artists responded to American culture of the 50's and 60's. This was a time of rapid technological advancement (Rauschenberg) and personal individualism from psychoanalysis (Dine)

Jim Dine

- Expressive
- Suggestive
- Forceful
- Symbolic
- Monochromatic
- Tonal
- Gesture
- 3D objects

Dine and Rauschenberg are both seen as expressive artists through their use of techniques and collaboration of 3D objects. Marks are applied quick and deliberate. The both rejected the abstraction of Pollock and Motherwell as being irrelevant to real life. They wanted to introduce real life back into art like Warhol and Oldenburg. Rauschenberg actually used real objects much in the same way as Marcel Duchamp and the Dada artists.

Differences and similarities

Norman Ackroyd

- Expressive
- Monochromatic
- Tonal
- Gestural
- Dull
- Contrasting
- Grungy

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Viewing both Robert Rauschenberg and Norman Ackroyd's works we can see contrast which draws attention to different parts of their works. Their colours used are monochromatic due to the limited palette and tonal effect to create emotion. Rauschenberg is very human oriented in his choice of images such as body parts and man made things like chairs and beds. Ackroyd avoids humans in his work which may mean he is more into universal feelings and themes.

Robert Rauschenberg

- Radical
- Experimental
- Muted
- Gridding
- Scale
- Contrasting
- Expressive
- 3D objects

Ackroyd does very gestural dull grungy works in comparison the Rauschenberg's works which are seen as expressive, radical and contrasting.

I think Ackroyd is much more interested in creating an aesthetic beauty. Perhaps if he captures an atmosphere really well there will be an intrinsic truth that goes beyond mere appearance.

Rauschenberg is much more into ideas. What is art, what is not art? He was wanting to challenge the accepted notions of what is acceptable. His is also all about human culture and society.

Differences and similarities

Jim Dine

- Expressive
- Suggestive
- Forceful
- Symbolic
- Monochromatic
- Tonal
- Gestural
- 3D objects

Jim Dine uses similar marks to Norman Ackroyd such as line, gesture and tone in their works. Both artists make pictures that are personal responses to the subject matter. Although I think Dine is much more responding to an internal conflict (Still life vanitas) whereas Ackroyd is seeking a more universal (maybe spiritual) understanding from the landscape. This may reflect the difference between those artists that are introspective (internal, self, inside) and those that are outward looking (Outside, open world, environmental)

Norman Ackroyd

- Expressive
- Monochromatic
- Tonal
- Gestural
- Dull
- Contrasting
- Grungy

- Norman Ackroyd works with the landscape and makes them appear realistic. Jim Dines does works that have more meaning to him as his works are just a symbol of emotions. Jim Dines symbols are of items and not of landscape making the artists to have different subject matter.
- Dine = Deep intense personal meaning
- Ackroyd = universal spiritual connection

Bibliography

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