



History Of The Figure In Art

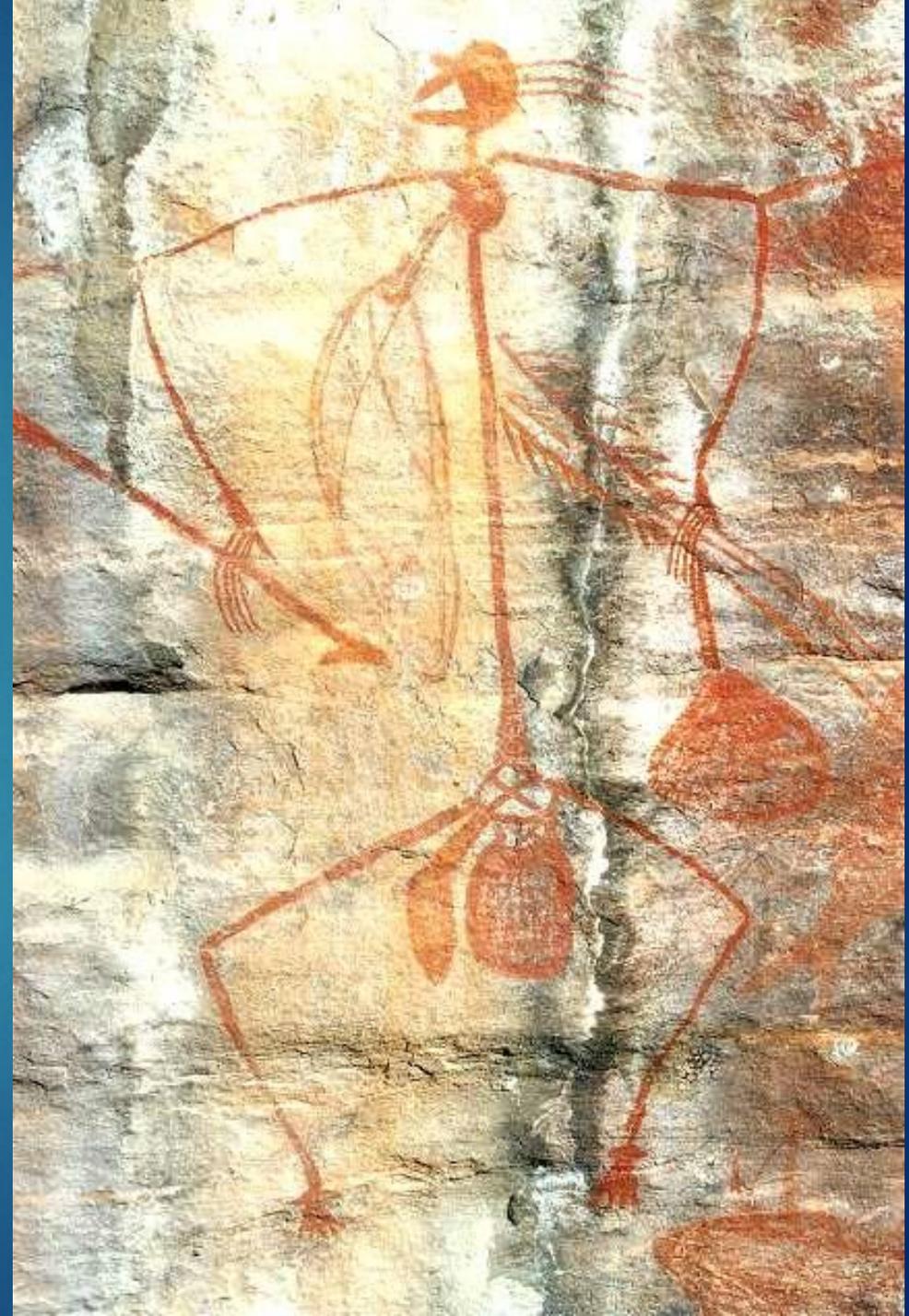
BY AWAIS NAQVI

Figure

- ▶ Early figure images served only communication and religious purposes.
- ▶ Later, portraits captured images of the living.
- ▶ After the invention of the camera, figure art became highly creative and expressive.
- ▶ Throughout history, figures are represented as drawings, paintings, and sculpture.
- ▶ Sculpture achieved a realistic appearance before drawings and paintings of figures.

PREHISTORIC FIGURES

- ▶ Line drawings of figures, similar to “stick figures.”
- ▶ Told stories of tribal celebrations, war and “the hunt” and communicated before written language.





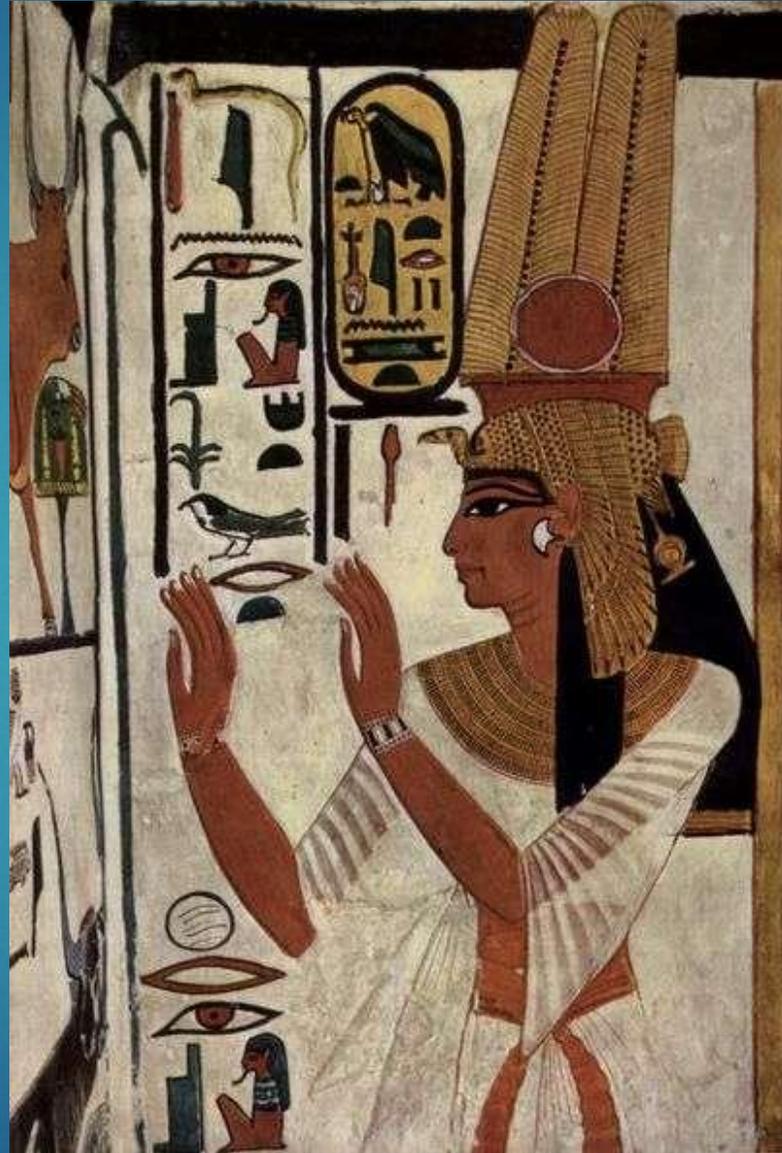
PRE-COLUMBIAN FIGURES

- ▶ Figures were mostly in sculpture form.
- ▶ Represented gods and other deities for worship and ceremonies.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN FIGURES

- ▶ Figure drawings were flat looking, with heads and feet in profile, while the chest/heart faced forward as well as the eye.
- ▶ Most important figures were shown larger than others.



ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN FIGURES

- ▶ Figures were often used in storytelling, especially mythology.
- ▶ Drawings were still flat looking, but sculptures were very realistic.
- ▶ Figure sculptures showed the classical “contrapposto” pose and realistic looking drapery.



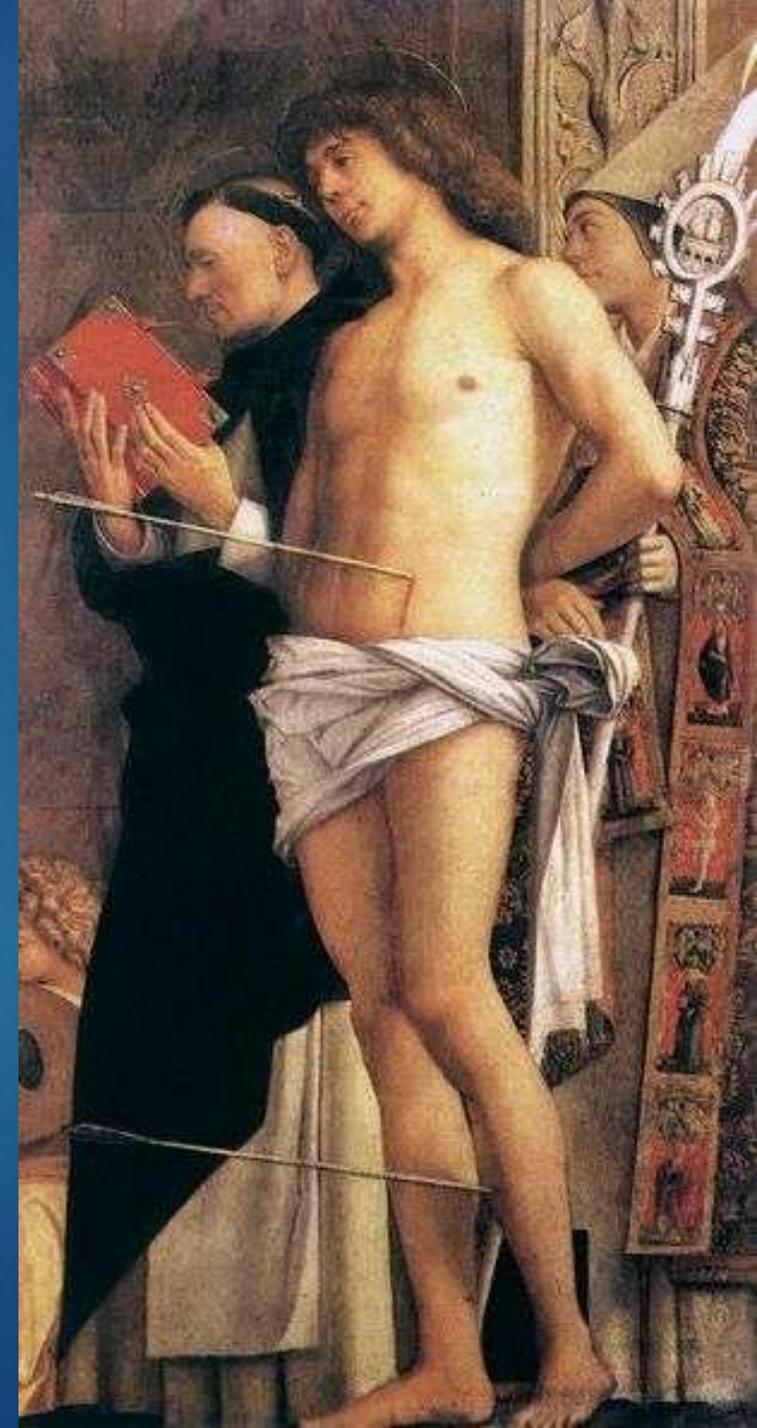
MIDDLE AGES 1000-1300AD

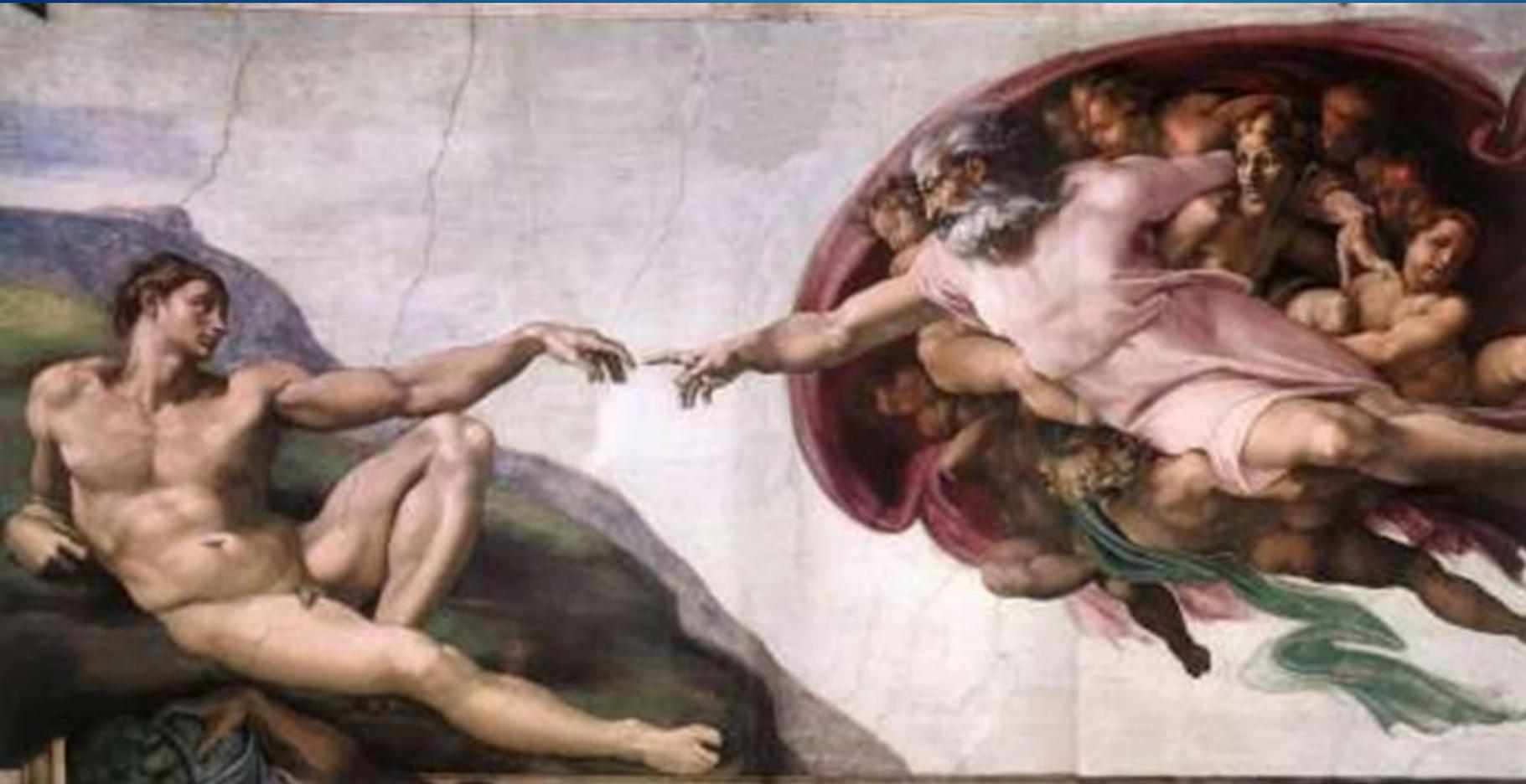
- ▶ Figures in paintings were beginning to develop a little more in form.
- ▶ Used in picturing religious and medieval scenes.



RENAISSANCE 1400 AD

- ▶ With the discovery of perspective, figures had more realistic form.
- ▶ Figures continued in religious depictions, but also became popular as portraits of the clergy and wealthy patrons.
- ▶ In time, portraiture grew to include the middle class.





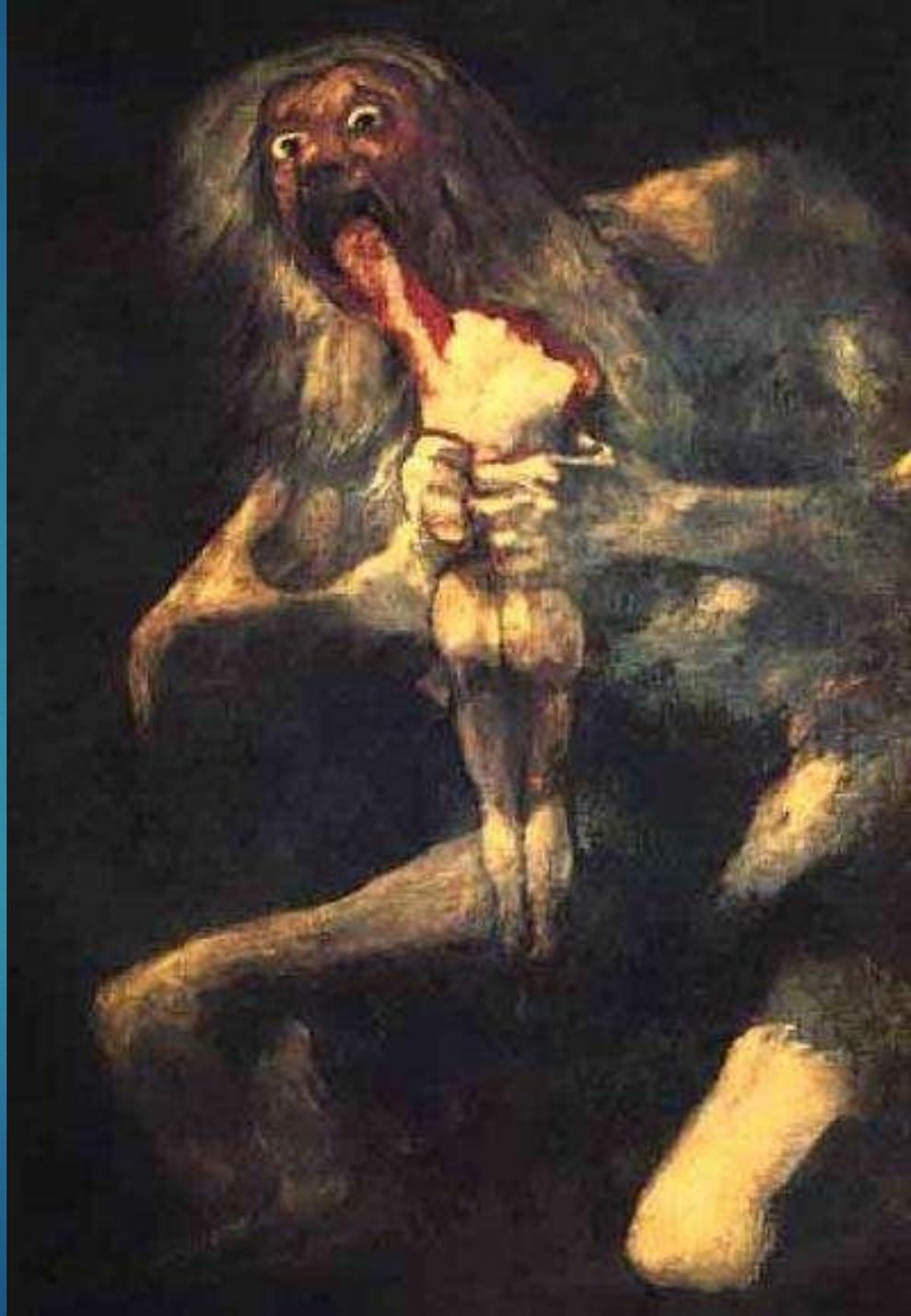
18th Century -1700's

- ▶ Portraiture continued to be popular, sometimes including land, house, pet, or other prized possession.
- ▶ Figure painting also provided entertainment or delivered a message.



ROMANTICISM

late 1700's-1800's



Realism and Impressionism

–late 1800's

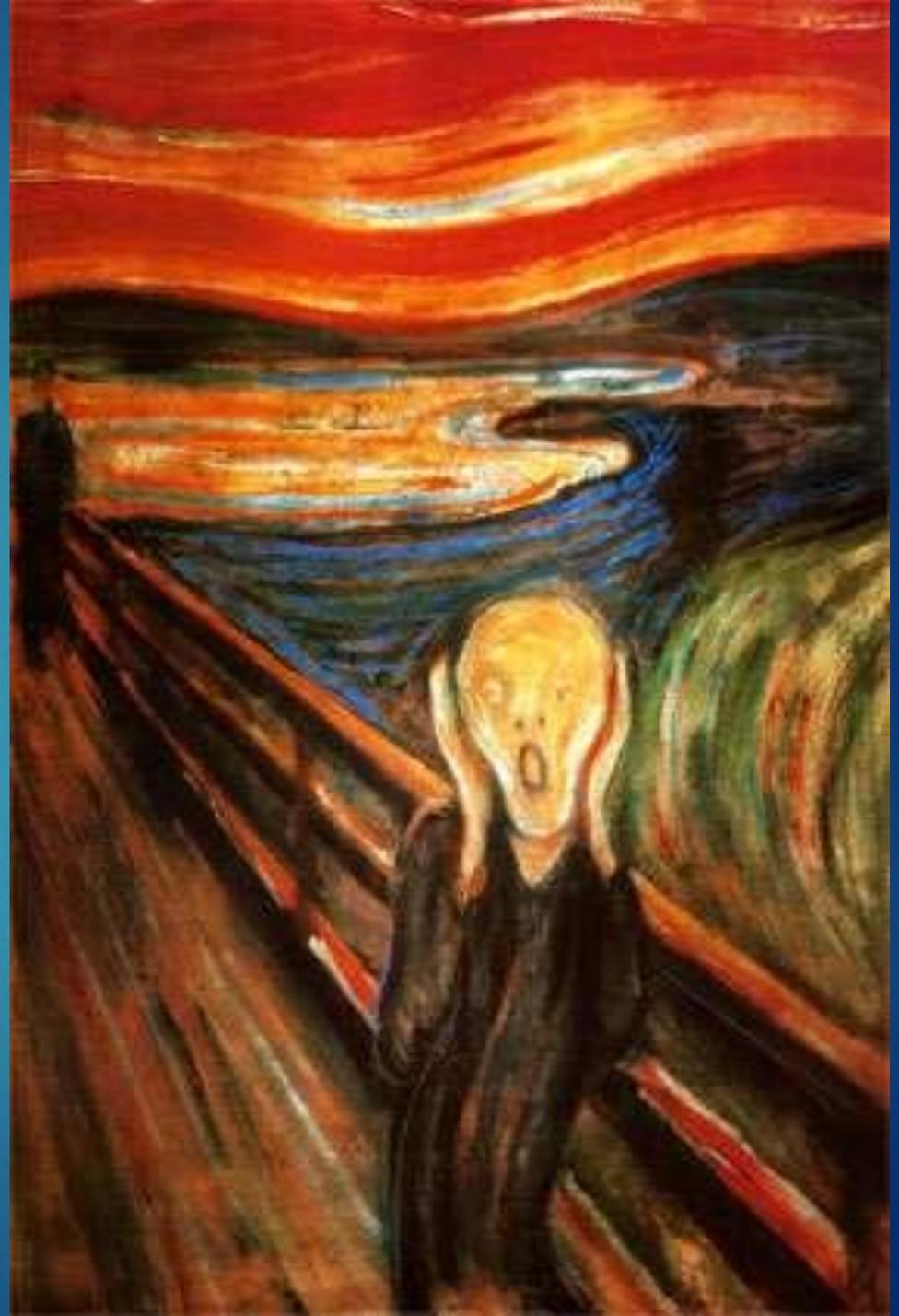
- ▶ The invention of the camera had a profound effect on figures in art, especially portraiture.
- ▶ Artists began painting “genre” (figures in everyday life situations).
- ▶ Figure painting and sculpture changed from realistic to more impressionistic styles.



Post-Impressionism and Cubism -early 1900's



Expressionism



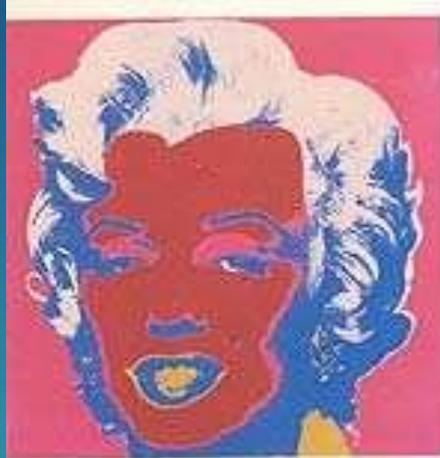
Surrealism



20th Century American Art



POP ART - 1960's



Contemporary Art Issues



The end