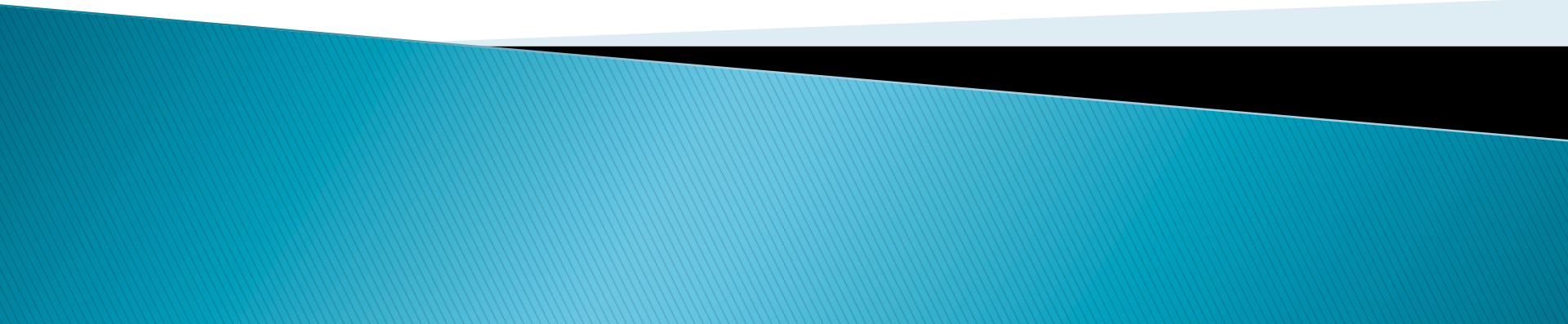




# HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT ART?

(and act like we know what we are talking about)

# HOW TO READ AN ARTWORK







Seth Rosenberg  
The Annunciation  
Collage  
2009



**Artist:** Seth Rosenberg



**Title:** The Annunciation



**Medium:** Collage

**Year:** 2009






# What is a MEDIUM?



# A MEDIUM is what the art is made out of!

- ▶ Clay, paper, stone, gumballs, paint, lasers, wire, pipecleaners, wax, glass, tires, lint, cars, bicycles, fingernails, marble, rubberbands, graphite, mirrors, wood, dirt, computers, jelly, silk, cardboard, oil, bronze, fresco, acrylic, etc., etc., etc.....

# KNOW YOUR TERMS!

- ▶ Knowing a few key terms will help you sound really convincing!
  - ▶ **Art Form:** Category of art making, describes the act of making art
  - ▶ **Art Style:** Grouping similar looking art into a category
  - ▶ **Art Movement:** A specific time in history where enough people have the same philosophy or style
- 



# It works like this...

- ▶ A painter uses ACRYLIC PAINT as their MEDIUM
  - Their ART FORM is PAINTING

The same painter paints abstract pictures

- Their ART STYLE IS ABSTRACT
- The “ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM” MOVEMENT occurred post WWII.
- **BUT...**Not all painters that consider themselves “abstract artists” were involved in the abstract expressionist movement...

# ART FORM

A medium or vehicle for artistic expression

# Art Forms





# ART STYLE

Grouping similar art into categories based on similarities

# Art Styles



Realism



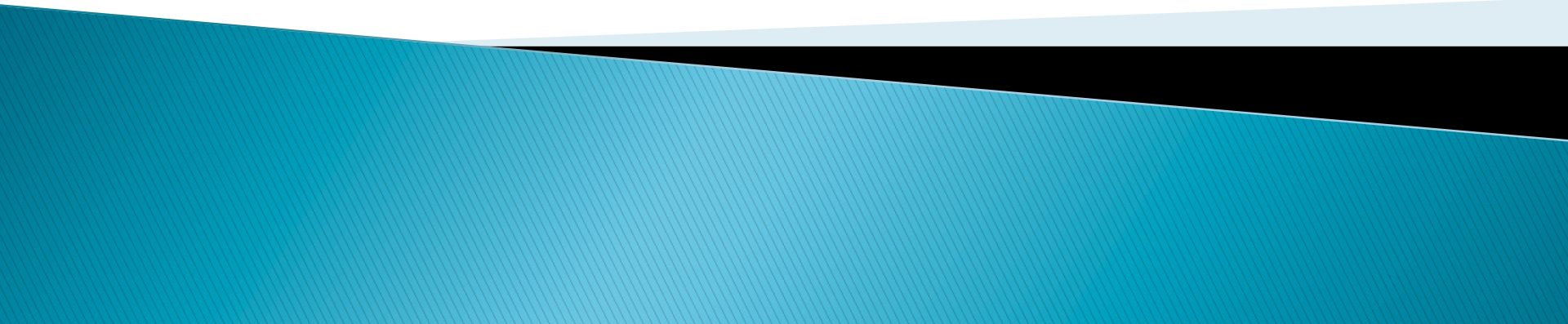
Graffiti/  
Street Art



Abstract

# ART MOVEMENT

Art with a common philosophy or goal





# Art Movement: Realism



George Bellows  
Both Members of this Club  
Oil on Canvas  
1909

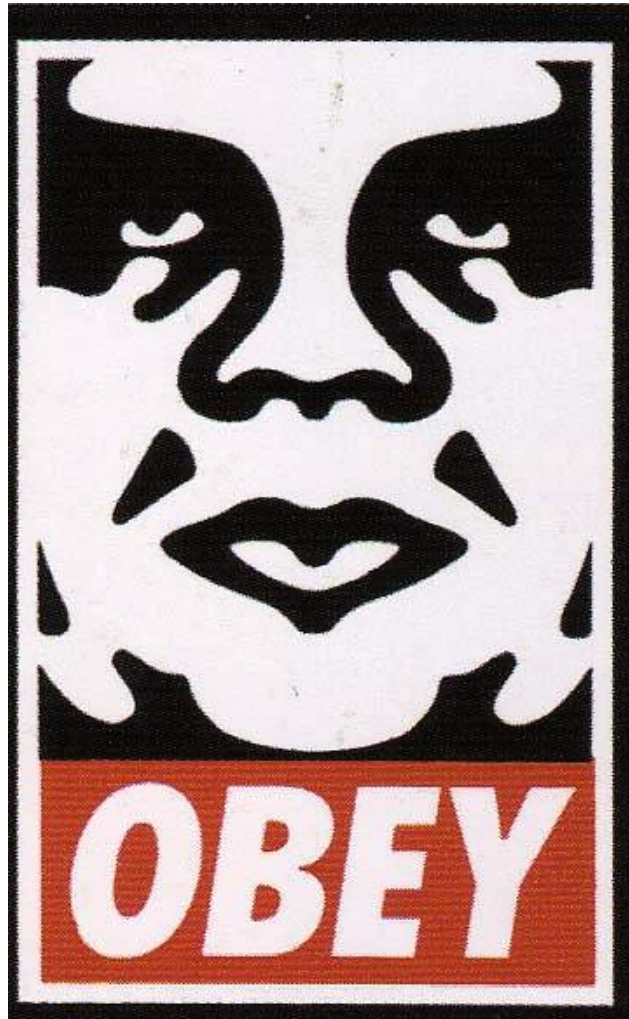
# Art Movement: Abstract Expressionism



Jackson Pollack  
No 5  
Oil on Canvas  
1952



# Art Movement: Graffiti/Street Art



Shepard Fairey  
Obey Giant  
Spraypaint/stencil  
1989–...



# Aesthetics

Branch of philosophy

Art is an EXPERIENCE

Principles regarding how to determine beauty

# A philosophy of an abstract expressionist...

- ▶ When I am *in* my painting, I'm not aware of what I'm doing. It is only after a sort of 'get acquainted' period that I see what I have been about. I have no fear of making changes, destroying the image, etc., because the painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through. It is only when I lose contact with the painting that the result is a mess. Otherwise there is pure harmony, an easy give and take, and the painting comes out well. —Jackson Pollock, *My Painting*, 1956

# A philosophy of street art...

- ▶ "The Andre The Giant sticker was just a spontaneous, happy accident. I was teaching a friend how to make stencils in the summer of 1989, and I looked for a picture to use in the newspaper, and there just happened to be an ad for wrestling with Andre The Giant and I told him that he should make a stencil of it. He said 'Nah, I'm not making a stencil of that, that's stupid!' but I thought it was funny so I made the stencil and I made a few stickers and the group of guys I was hanging out with always called each other The Posse, so it said Andre The Giant Has A Posse, and it was sort of appropriated from hip-hop slang – Public Enemy, NWA and Ice-T were all using the word

# Art tells a story....

Art as NARRATIVE





Robert Rauschenberg  
*Retroactive I*  
Oil and silkscreen on canvas  
1964

# Some BIG questions remain...

- ▶ What is art for?
  - ▶ Who determines if an artwork is “good” or “bad”?
  - ▶ What does it mean to say you have had an “artistic experience”?
  - ▶ How does art become **popular** and famous?
  - ▶ Who can make art? Do we hold different people to different artistic standards?
- 