

Lichtenstein Art Lit Slideshow Notes

1. **Roy Lichtenstein 1923-1997**

2. **Picture of the artist**

Lichtenstein was born and raised in Manhattan, New York. As a painter and sculptor, he was one of the most important figures of the Pop Art movement (Pop artists used "popular" items for subjects such as common, everyday items and images from advertising). Lichtenstein liked to use his art to poke fun at the ideas of art and commercialism.

3. **The artist in his studio & with his young sons**

Here he is with his sons, Mitchell and David. You can see that many of his paintings are very large.

4. **What to Look for in his Artwork**

Notable traits of Lichtenstein's art include bold, dark lines; a limited color palette, mostly primary colors; the use of Ben Day dots; and subjects inspired by comic books & advertising.

5. **Ben Day Dots**

Benjamin Henry Day invented this printing technique in 1879. Depending on the effect required, dots are closely spaced, widely spaced, or overlapping (to blend colors). For a long time color printing was done with just four colors: Cyan (a blue-green), Magenta (a pink-purple), Yellow & Black. Magenta dots, for example, are widely spaced to create the look of pink skin. On the right you see Lichtenstein's enlarged and exaggerated take on Ben Day dots.

6. **Ben Day dots for shading**

Here you can see an image of an arm. The background is yellow, and where the skin begins there are widely spaced reddish dots to look like peach skin. As the dots are placed closer together, the background starts to look more orange, then more red, and finally solid red.

7. **Odd Subjects**

Artists of the Pop Art movement liked to use everyday objects as the subject for their works. You may be familiar with Andy Warhol's soup cans. Lichtenstein gravitated toward what he would call the "dumbest" or "worst" visual item he could find and then tried to alter or improve it. Some people were not sure if a painting of a hot dog or baked potato could really be considered art. What do you think? Lichtenstein didn't like the idea that one set of lines (one person's drawings) "was considered brilliant, and somebody's else's, that may have looked better to you, was considered nothing by almost everyone."

8. **Whaam! - 1963**

Lichtenstein was inspired by comic books. He often copied scenes from DC Comics--they're the folks that make Batman and The Flash! But back then, they also made war story comics and even romance story comics. Lichtenstein liked to copy important scenes in these stories and paint them in his own style. Some people thought this made him just a copy-cat. They didn't think it was really art. But the comic book companies at the time didn't even give their own artists named credit for drawing the comics, so maybe Lichtenstein was actually showing people that their drawings could be considered art?

9. **Big Painting #6 - 1965**

Lichtenstein wanted to move on from painting comic book scenes and began a series of brushstrokes. He was poking fun at art because the viewer usually notices the subject not the strokes of the brush used to paint it. But this time he chose the brushstroke, itself, as his subject!

10. Still Life with Goldfish 1972/1977

Later in his career, Lichtenstein also started making sculptures. Sometimes he would make a sculpture of a painting that he had already made years before. And even though his sculptures were three-dimensional, they almost looked like flat paintings!

11. Bedroom at Arles - 1992

Lichtenstein also liked to explore works by famous artists. Here, Lichtenstein has put his own spin on a painting by Vincent VanGogh.

12. Bedroom at Arles - 1992

It's REALLY big!

13. Times Square Mural - 1994

He even made a mural for the New York subway. It is an amazing 53 FEET long!

14. Lichtenstein in Portland!

Did you know you can see a Lichtenstein Brushstroke sculpture here in Portland? It is on display outside our own Portland Art Museum downtown. It is on Park avenue in front of the grey building to the right of the main museum building.

15. Sunrise - 1965

And now, our project.

16. Sunrise - Student examples

Here are some examples of how other students have interpreted Lichtenstein's sunrise. You can see that some made the bottom section water while others made it land and some made it more clouds. A variety of colors were used - this is your art so you decide!