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#### **Assignment # 4**

The movement of Futurism was both focused as an artistic and social movement that was highlighting advances in speed, technology revolving transportation like the car, the airplane, and the industrialization of the Italian cities. Important names during this movement were the Italians Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Umberto Boccioni, Carlo Carrà, Gino Severini, Giacomo Balla, and Luigi Russolo. This time in history was socially dictating modernity and was intended free Italy from the weight of its past.

Another impactful artistic and social movement was Cubism as it also contributed to the formation of Italian Futurism's artistic style. The important works included Marinetti's Manifesto of Futurism, Boccioni's sculpture Unique Forms of Continuity in Space, Balla's painting Abstract Speed and Sound, and Russolo's The Art of Noises. Although it was becoming popular in Italian cities, there was growth in influence in Russia, England and Belgium. The Futurists practiced in every type and kind of art, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, urban design, theatre, film, fashion, textiles, literature, music, architecture, and even Futurist meals. To some extent Futurism influenced the art movements of the Art Deco, Constructivism, and Surrealism.

The Futurist movement highly revolves around the late architect Antonio Sant'Elia whom expressed his ideas of modernity in his drawings for La Città Nuova (The New City) (1912–1914). This project was never built and Sant'Elia was killed in the First World War, but his ideas left later generations of architects and artist inspiration of virtues. The city was a backdrop onto which the dynamism of how Futurist life projected. The city had replaced the landscape as the setting for the exciting modern life. Sant'Elia aimed to create a city as an efficient, fast-paced machine. He manipulates light and shape to emphasize the sculptural quality of his projects. Baroque curves and encrustations had been stripped away to reveal the essential lines of forms unprecedented from their simplicity. The city was not meant to last, and each subsequent generation was expected to build their own city rather than inheriting the architecture of the past.

Futurist architects were sometimes at odds with the Fascist state's tendency towards Roman imperial-classical aesthetic patterns. Several Futurist buildings were built in the years 1920–1940, including public buildings such as railway stations, maritime resorts and post offices. Examples of Futurist buildings still in use today are Trento's railway station, built by Angiolo Mazzoni, and the Santa Maria Novella station in Florence. The Florence station was designed in 1932 by the Gruppo Toscano (Tuscan Group) of architects, which included Giovanni Michelucci and Italo Gamberini, with contributions by Mazzoni.

Futurism influenced many other twentieth-century art movements, including Art Deco, Constructivism, Surrealism, and much later Neo-Futurism. Futurism was an organized artistic movement that died out in 1944 with the death of Marinetti.

However, the ideals of Futurism remain as significant components of modern Western culture; the emphasis on youth, speed, power and technology finding expression in much of modern commercial cinema and culture. Ridley Scott consciously evoked the designs of Sant'Elia in *Blade Runner*. Echoes of Marinetti's thought, especially his "dreamt-of metallization of the human body", are still strongly prevalent in Japanese culture, and surface in manga/anime and the works of artists such as Shinya Tsukamoto, director of the *Tetsuo* (lit. "Ironman") films.

A revival of sorts of the Futurist movement in theatre began in 1988 with the creation of the Neo-Futurist style in Chicago, which utilizes Futurism's focus on speed and brevity to create a new form of immediate theatre. Currently, there are active Neo-Futurist troupes in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Montreal.

Futurism still has had its acknowledgement through the recent years where as in 2014, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum featured the exhibition "Italian Futurism, 1909–1944: Reconstructing the Universe". This was the first comprehensive overview of Italian Futurism to be presented in the United States. As well as the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art is a museum in London with a collection centered around Italian futurist artists and their paintings.