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ARTH 3311

Museum Assignment

When I came across the exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, A Revolutionary Impulse: The Rise of the Russian Avant-Garde, I was very amazed at the art work and designs that were displayed on the walls such as paintings, art work that was behind the glass and even the sculptures. However, my main focus was on the printed pieces. The printed pieces were the ones that really blew my mind away, simply because of the designs and styles that the designers used to catch the audience's attention, and most importantly the meaning and story behind it.

One of the printed pieces that stood out to me was *Olga Rozanova Russian, 1886*

– *1918 War (Voina) by Aleksei Kruchenykh*

1916. This piece was very interesting to me because the picture, or art, speaks for itself.

In this image I see a battle taking place. Men with weapons attacking their enemies which indicates violence occurring as the theme of this design and from the expressions and body language that the illustrator uses, It shows aggressiveness and seriousness.

Another important idea that needs to be mentioned about this amazing piece by Olga Rozanova is that, which was stated in the museum, “She considered the portfolio War

to be her crowning achievement in printmaking, especially as she printed the linoleum cuts herself. Her imagery is influenced by the abstracted forms of Cubism and Futurism.” In other words, this

reveals that when constructing her designed work, the type of styles she would use were cubism and futurism. This brings me to

another reason, why I enjoyed this art work and it's mainly because of cubism, which is

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the style of adding geometric shapes to your artwork. If you can pull a design together with shapes and have a story behind it, that can not only catch my attention but it can bring the audience attention since the audience is interested in unique art and design. Futurism in the other hand deals with a technological field in the arts.

In addition, we have another printed piece which is called *The Man with the Movie Camera (Chelovek s Kinoapparatom) 1929* which is by Vladimir Stenberg Russian 1899 – 1982 and Georgii Stenberg Russian 1900-1929. In this art work, the author creates a poster and you see film as the theme. What interested me the most about this art is how the colors and letters of the piece stands out. The back ground is a light color and I'm assuming it's supposed to be white but it's actually cream, and the letters and items in the design poster is visible. What also interested me about the designer Stenberg is that he uses surrealism.

Surrealism is the principles, ideals, or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery or effects in art, literature, film, or theater. This type of style which is surrealism is shown in the poster by portraying film and photography mixed with dancing and maybe theater. As stated in the website about the Stenberg's it states, while the Stenberg's achievements include designs for theatrical sets such as costumes, books, interiors, and buildings. It is their film posters that comprises their greatest contribution to the arts of this century. The film posters directly addressed the possibility of cultural expression in an age of mass production, melding the ethos of the machine, in their means of production, and the film, in their visual language".

We now have Kazimir Malevich Russian, born Ukraine, 1878-1935 from cubism and futurism to suprematism: New painterly realism. In this printed piece it indicates the cover of the third edition of the

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book. "New pictorial realism" by Malevich. I choose this as one of my favorite because I believe its straight forward and clear. It may not have many great designs or colors but for a cover of a book, this is just enough. Believe or not, simple can be enough. In this cover the author demonstrates more lettering and maybe one or two simple shapes. The shapes would be the black square and behind that square you can see a transparent square. When looking at this, the designer shows that this book will most likely be about cubism since cubism has to do with geometric shapes. As I was looking through the other art work by this designer, I came across how this artist would transform their style from Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism. Now suprematism is characterized by simple geometric shapes and associated with ideas of spiritual purity.

Alexandra Exters art work also blew my mind. The name of this design is called *Alexandra Exter Russian, 1882-1949*

"Guardian of Energy." In this design Alexandra uses many styles to create her art. First of all for this design she uses Ink, gouache, and pencil on paper. In addition to that, she demonstrates styles such as futurism and cubism to make her work creative. When observing her amazing design, I've notice she would combine shapes, tools and different objects together and make it into a human figure. As a costume designer, most of Alexandra Exter's art work such as "Guardian of Energy" uses cubism and futurism on clothing. That's what makes her work special and different in a good way and that is why I admire her designs just like this one.

Aleksandr Rodchenko new LEF: journal of the left front of the arts (Novyi LEF, Zhurnal levogo fronta iskusstv) nos 1-12 (1927) which was my last design that I found amazing, it was an art design that was a journal with letter press covers and

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illustrations. In his work such as this one, he used a repetition of colors of Pure Red Color, Pure Yellow Color, and Pure Blue Color. In these works, Rodchenko applied these colors in a way that drew attention to their substance as matter. He would use the language or art to describe the realities of everyday life in the Soviet Union. The fact that he was reflecting his art work to his everyday life made his art work even more incredible.

In conclusion, from this experienced at the MoMA museum, what I can say is that I've learned a lot and most importantly I enjoyed it. It was an experience that I will never forget. Especially after observing and admiring all the art work from these great designers that I've seen. Just looking at the different styles of art that was used, the colors, shapes and how they would relate it to what they see or how they would live in their everyday life just caught my attention. What's very significant about this

assignment while exploring the museum was that it helped me realize that art was more than just drawing and paintings it was a lifestyle. There's basically a story or message behind every designers art work and that's what makes the beauty of art.

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