

Arts Reviewer

Neoclassicism and Romanticism were the movements after the **Rococo period** that flourished across Western Europe and the United States which spanned approximately from the **late eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries**.

NEOCLASSICISM, 1780-1840

The word neoclassic came from the Greek word **neos** meaning new and the Latin word **classicus** which is similar in meaning to the English phrase first class.

The Western movement in decorative and visual arts was called **Neoclassicism**. It also applies to literature, theater, music, and architecture that were influenced by the classical art and culture of **Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome**.

The Neoclassical movement coincided with the 18th century Age of Reason also known as the Age of Enlightenment. The art style in this period was brought about by the renewed interest in Greek and Roman classics.

Neoclassical art pieces such as paintings, sculpture and architecture **generally portrayed Roman history** which elevated the Roman heroes.

Characteristics:

- Portrayal of Roman history
- Formal composition
- The use of diagonals to show the peak of an emotion or moment (versus a regular moment)
- Local color
- Overall lighting
- Classic geo-structure

Classicism refers to the art forms produced in antiquity or inspired by it afterward, while **Neoclassicism** always refers to the art forms inspired by ancient times, but created later.

NEOCLASSICAL PAINTING

Neoclassical artists embraced the **ideals of order and moderation** in which artistic interpretations of classic Greek and Roman history were restored to realistic portrayals. Neoclassical painters gave great importance to the **costumes, settings and details** of classical subject-matter without adding distracting details but with as much **historical accuracy** as possible.

NEO-CLASSICAL ARTISTS

1. JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID (1748-1825) France

Was an influential French painter in the neoclassical style, and considered to be the **pre-eminent painter** of the era. His subjects of paintings were **more on history**.

Famous Artworks:

THE DEATH OF MARAT, NAPOLEON CROSSING THE ALPS, OATH OF THE HORATII

2. JEAN-AUGUSTE-DOMINIQUE INGRES (1780-1867) France

Was a **pupil** of Jacques Louis David. His paintings were **usually nudes, portraits and mythological themes**. He was regarded as one of the **great exemplars of academic art** and one of the **finest Old Masters** of his era.

Famous Artworks:

PORTRAIT OF NAPOLEON ON THE IMPERIAL THRONE, THE APOTHEOSIS OF HOMER

NEOCLASSICAL SCULPTURES

Artists looked to **Roman styles** during the time of **Alexander the Great** for inspiration as well as to mimic their style.

1. ANTONIO CANOVA (1757-1822) Italy

Canova was a prolific Italian artist and sculptor who became **famous for his marble sculptures** that delicately rendered nude flesh.

Famous Artworks:

PSYCHE AWAKENED BY CUPID'S KISS, WASHINGTON

2. BERTEL THORVALDSEN (1789-1838) Denmark

Thorvaldsen was the **first internationally acclaimed Danish artist**. He executed sculptures of mythological and religious themes characters.

Famous Artworks:

CHRIST, LION OF LUCERNE

NEOCLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE

Neoclassical architectural styles **started in the mid-18th century**. It turned away from the grandeur of Rococo style and the Late Baroque. In its purest form, Neoclassical architecture was a style principally **derived from the architecture of Classical Greece and Rome** and the architectural designs of the Italian architect **Andrea Palladio**.

Types of Neoclassical Architecture:

TEMPLE STYLE

Temple style building design was based on an **ancient temple**. These buildings were **uncommon** during the Renaissance as architects of that period focused mainly on **applying classical elements** to **churches** and modern buildings like **palazzos and villas**.

Many temple style buildings feature a **peristyle** (a continuous line of columns around a building), **a rare feature** of Renaissance architecture

Most famous Temple Style buildings of the Neoclassical age:

PANTHEON, BRITISH MUSEUM, LA MADELEINE DE PARIS

PALLADIAN STYLE

Palladian buildings were **based on Andrea Palladio's style** of villa construction. Some of the buildings feature a **balustrade** which is a railing with vertical supports along the edge of the roof. There are vertical supports within a balustrade known as "balusters" or spindles". It is also a classical method of crowning a building that has a flat or low lying roof. One of the famous architects in the era was:

ROBERT ADAM (1728-1792) Britain

He was known as the **Palladian architect of the Neoclassical** who designed two well-known American civic buildings- **The White House** and the **United States Capitol**. He had also designed many country houses.

CLASSICAL BLOCK STYLE

The building features a **rectangular or square plan**, with a **flat roof** and an **exterior rich in classical detail**. The exterior features a **repeated classical pattern** or series of arches and/or columns. The overall impression of such a building was a **huge, classically-decorated rectangular block**.

Classical block aesthetic was also known as **“Beaux-Arts style”**, since it was developed principally by the French **École des Beaux-Arts (School of Fine Arts)**.

Classical block architecture also flourished in the United States, particularly in New York.

Famous Architects of this architectural style were:

A. HENRI LABROUSTE - His masterpiece is the **Library of Sainte-Geneviève**.

B. CHARLES GARNIER - He designed the most famous classical block of all which is the **Palais Garnier** (a Neobaroque opera house).

OTHER BUILDINGS IN CLASSICAL BLOCK STYLE:

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BY: CARRERE & HASTINGS ARCHITECTURAL FIRM, 1895

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BY: CHARLES FOLLEN MCKIM, 1895

ROMANTICISM, 1800s-1810s

Romanticism was a movement in which the artists of Neoclassical period sought to break new ground in the expression of emotion, both subtle and stormy. It embraced a number of distinctive themes, such as a longing for history, supernatural elements, social injustices, and nature.

Landscape painting also became more popular due to the peoples' romantic adoration of nature.

Romanticism was a reaction to the classical, contemplative nature of Neoclassical pieces.

Characteristics:

- shows the height of action
- emotional extremes
- celebrated nature as out of control
- dramatic compositions
- heightened sensation (life and death moments)

ROMANTIC PAINTING (Portraits/Figures)

The paintings of the Romantic period gave more emphasis on emotion. Artists expressed as much feeling and passion as it could be on a canvas.

PAINTERS OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

1. JEAN LOUIS THÉODORE GÉRICAUT (1791-1824) France

Géricault was the first French master and the leader of the French realistic school. His masterpieces were energetic, powerful, brilliantly colored, and tightly composed.

Famous Artworks

THE RAFT OF THE MEDUSA, CHARGING CHASSEUR, INSANE WOMAN

2. EUGÈNE DELACROIX (1798-1863) France

Delacroix was considered the greatest French Romantic painter of all.

Famous Artworks

LIBERTY LEADING THE PEOPLE

3. FRANCISCO GOYA (1746-1828) Spain

He was a printmaker regarded both as the last of the “Old Masters” and the first of the “Moderns”.

Famous Artworks

THE THIRD OF MAY, SATURN DEVOURING HIS SON, THE BURIAL OF SARDINE

ROMANTIC PAINTING (Landscape Painting)

Landscape painting depicts the physical world that surrounds us and includes features such as mountains, valleys, vegetation, and bodies of water. The sky is another important element shaping the mood of landscape paintings.

Famous landscape artists during the Romantic Period:

1. **Théodore Rousseau**

2. **Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot**

They were members of the **Barbizon School** (a circle of artists who held meetings in the village of Barbizon) that led the Romantic landscape painting in France.

FAMOUS ARTWORKS:

THE CHURCH OF MARISSEL, NEAR BEAUVAIS, LE REPOS SOUS LES SAULES

(J. Corot)

DER KLEINE FISCHER, LANDSCAPE WITH A PLOWMAN

(T. Rousseau)

ROMANTIC SCULPTURE

Romantic sculpture can be divided into works that concern about the human world and those that concern the natural world. The leading sculptors of each type were **Rude** and **Barye**, respectively.

FRANÇOIS RUDE

(1784-1855) France

François Rude was best known for his social art which aimed to inspire and capture the interest of a broad public.

Famous Artworks:

DEPARTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS (La Marseillaise), JEANNE D'ARC

ANTOINE-LOUIS BARYE (1796-1875) France

He was the most famous animal sculptor of all time.

Famous works:

1. Hercules Sitting on a Bull

2. Theseus Slaying the Minotaur

GOTHIC REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE (NEOGOTHIC)

Gothic Revival also referred to as **Victorian Gothic or Neo-Gothic**, is an architectural movement that began in **the late 1740s** in England.

Many of Neogothic buildings feature **castellation** in which the walls and towers are crenellated in **imitation of medieval castles**. Indeed, heavily castellated Neogothic buildings have been often referred to as “castles”, even though they **never served as a defensive structure**. Among them was **Strawberry Hill**

(demolished and restored), the **most famous work** of the decorative phase of the Gothic Revival.

Gothic Revival became widely used for churches and civic buildings throughout the West, especially in **Britain and the United States**. **Bricks and stones** were both commonly used.

Architects who used Neogothic Style:

1. **CHARLES BARRY** was the name behind Britain's foremost Gothic Revival monument, the **Westminster Palace** (a.k.a. the Houses of Parliament).

2. **JAMES RENWICK**

Renwick's crowning American work: the **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (New York).

NEOCLASSICISM and ROMANTICISM in the Philippines

1. **FÉLIX RESURRECCIÓN HIDALGO Y PADILLA** (1855-1913)

Felix Hidalgo was one of the great Filipino painters of the late 19th century who was significant in the Philippine history **for inspiring members of the Philippine reform movement**.

THE CHRISTIAN VIRGINS BEING EXPOSED TO THE POPULACE

2. **JUAN LUNA Y NOVICIO** (1857-1899)

He became one of the first recognized Philippine artists. He was also a political activist of the Philippine Revolution during the late 19th century.

SPOLIARIUM

3. **FERNANDO CUETO AMORSOLO** (1892-1972)

Amorsolo was a National Artist in Painting. He was a portraitist and painter of rural Philippine landscapes, and he was popularly known for his craftsmanship and mastery of the use of light.

PLANTING RICE WITH MAYON VOLCANO

4. **GUILLERMO ESTRELLA TOLENTINO** (1890-1976)

Tolentino is a Filipino sculptor who was named *National Artist for the Visual Arts* in 1973, and is hailed as **the "Father of Philippine Arts."**

OBLATION (University of the Philippines), PAMBANSANG BANTAYOG NI ANDRES BONIFACIO

5. **NAPOLEÓN ISABELO VELOSO ABUEVA**

Abueva is a National artist for Sculpture. He was entitled as the "Father of Modern Philippine Sculpture". He has been the only Boholano to be given the distinction of National Artist of the Philippines in the field of Visual Arts.

SIYAM NA DIWATA NG SINING

Neoclassical and Romantic Architecture during the American colonization in the Philippines

Zamboanga Municipal Building
Iloilo Customs House
Laguna Provincial Capitol
Negros Occidental Provincial Capitol
Cebu Normal School
Sorsogon Municipal Building

Zamboanga Normal School, Bureau of Science and Insular Laboratory, San Fernando Provincial Hospital, Baguio Government Center, Corregidor Island, Laoag Normal School, Executive House, Elks Club, Paco Train Station

American High Commission Mansion, Bontoc Catholic Church, University of the
Philippines Manila, Manila Post Office