



Saint Elizabeth's Knowledge Mat



Year: 5

Subject: Art

Topic: Futurism – Umberto Boccioni

Common Golden Thread: Artists & Artisans

1. What I Know Already

Antoni Gaudi: Exploring the art and architecture of his sculptures (Year 3)

How to use a number of brush techniques using thick and thin brushes to produce shapes, textures, patterns and lines. (LKS2)

How to comment on artworks using visual language (LKS2)

2. Key Concepts

Umberto Boccioni's sculpture, The Unique Forms of Continuity in Space (right), is an expression of movement and fluidity. It **synthesises** different perspectives of speed and force into the movement of a striding figure.

What did Futurism celebrate?

Spanning from approximately 1909-1920, the aim of **futurism** was to capture the **dynamism** and energy of the modern world. Futurist artists wanted to celebrate industry and technology. The popularity of Futurism was linked to its celebration of modern life, such as travel, speed, movement and technology. It moved away and **denounced** the past, creating feelings of excitement, hope and power.

What led to Futurism's decline in popularity?

However, after World War 1 (1914-1918), many people soon **denounced** Futurism! They believed it created a surge in **nationalistic** emotions and promoted and glorified violence. Due to the horror and brutality of WW1, many artists rejected **innovative** Futurist ideas and preferred to use traditional, **reassuring** approaches to their art. This was called the '**Return to Order**'. This began in 1918 and soon led to a decline in popularity for Futurist artists and works. Equally, many famous Futurist artists died in WW1 themselves!

Umberto Boccioni



Giovanni Balla

(Above)
The
Unique
Forms of
Continuity
in Space

(Left)
'Street
Light'
oil
Painting

3. Key Vocabulary

Futurism	An Italian art movement, celebrating the energy and dynamism of the modern world
denunciation	Severe public criticism
nationalistic	Very proud of your own nation, often believing it is better than others
stippled	Covered with tiny dots
divisionism	Like pointillism, breaking down colour and light into a series of dots or stripes
innovative	New and original
reassuring	Making you feel less worried about something
threadlike	Very thin, like a thread
dynamism	Full of energy and exciting ideas
synthesise	Combine different ideas to form a single idea
contorted	Twisted out of shape



Giovanni Balla