

Research Paper Topic Ideas

Please choose a topic to write your research paper on that relates to western art theory and history from 1945 to 1970. Several artists and topics are listed below but you are not restricted to this list. Your topic must be appropriate to the class and will need to be approved by the instructor via the Thesis Proposal on Blackboard (details follow).

Bas Jan Ader – Performance Art
Arte Povera – Italian Pop Art
Vito Acconci – Performance artist
Diane Arbus – Photographer
Francis Bacon – Figurative Expressionist
Lee Bontecou – Process Art
Louise Bourgeois – Contemporary sculptor
Chris Burden – Performance artist
Alberto Burri – Tachisme
John Cage – Performance Art
Christo and JeanneClaude – Situationists
Willem De Kooning – Figurative Expressionist
Jean Dubuffet – Art Brut
Dan Flavin – Minimalist
Fluxus
Lucio Fontana – Art Brut
Robert Frank – Beat photographer
Helen Frankenthaler – Modern painter
Lucien Freud – Figurative painter
Alberto Giacometti – Ab Ex sculptor
Arshile Gorky – Armenian Ab Ex
Gutai Art Association – Japanese Ab Ex
Michael Heizer – Earthwork artist
Eva Hesse – Post-Minimalist sculptor
Jasper Johns – Neo Dadaist
Donald Judd – Minimalist sculptor
Allan Kaprow – Performance Art
Edward & Nancy Kienholz – Installation artists
Yves Kline – Nouveaux Realiste
Joseph Kosuth – Conceptualist
Lee Krasner – Abstract Expressionist
Yayoi Kusama – Pop Art
Norman Lewis – Abstract Expressionist
Sol Lewitt – Conceptualist
Roy Lichtenstein – Pop artist
Agnes Martin – Abstract painter
Joan Mitchell – Ab Ex painter
Robert Morris – Post-Minimalist
Robert Motherwell – Abstract Expressionist

Elizabeth Murray – Neo Expressionist
Alice Neel – Pop Art
Barnett Newman – Color Field painter
Claes Oldenburg – Pop sculptor
Yoko Ono – Conceptualist
Nam June Paik – Video Art
Jackson Pollock – modern painter
Robert Rauschenberg – Neo Dadaist
James Rosenquist – Pop painter
Piero Manzoni – Nouveaux Realiste
Marisol – Pop assemblage
Martha Rosler – Pop collage
Mark Rothko – Color Field painter
Niki de Saint Phalle – Nouveaux Realiste
Richard Serra – Process Art
Situationists International – activist art
David Smith – Ab Ex sculptor
Frank Stella – Minimalist
James Turrell – Earthwork artist
Andy Warhol – Pop artist

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Action vs. abstraction
Anti Form
Art Brut and Georges Bataille
The death and return of painting
The death of the avant-garde
Duchamp's influence
Exclusion of women and/or POC
Existential angst in post WWII American art
Greenbergian formalism and American ideals
Gay and/or transgender gaze
Modern architecture
Notes on Camp