

ROMANTICISM: The Artistic Expression of Liberalism

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ROMANTICISM

"It was my heart that counseled me to do it, and my heart cannot err."

ROMANTICISM = a new intellectual movement

1. Emerged at end of 18th cent
2. Challenged enlightenment thinking
3. Sources of knowing – intuition, feeling, emotion, and imagination
4. The heart is more important than the head

"It is not the intellect that is the source of knowledge, but the heart. The heart is the source of all knowledge, and the intellect is only a servant of the heart."

The Spirit of the Age (1790–1850)

- A sense of a shared vision among the Romantics.
- Early support of the French Revolution.
- Rise of the individual → alienation.
- Dehumanization of industrialization.
- Radical poetics / politics → an obsession with violent change.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ROMANTICISM

- The misunderstood youth
 1. Go your own way/follow inner drives
 2. Reject conformity
 3. Rebel against middle class values – long hair, beards, crazy clothes
- Stress on the heroic
 1. The hero was a solitary genius
 2. Defy the world/sacrifice for great causes
 3. Transform society
- Passionate interest in the past
- The bizarre, unusual, and grotesque



ROMANTIC POETS AND THE LOVE OF NATURE

PERCY SHELLEY
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
JOHN KEATS
LORD BYRON



Love of nature

1. Nature was raw and untamed
2. Nature could get you in touch with the divine
3. Pantheism = god is everywhere/in everything

The World Is Too Much With Us

By William Wordsworth 1770–1850

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.



The ROMANTICS REJECTED

1. COLD CALCULATING RATIONALISM OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT
2. MATERIALISM
3. SCIENCE WAS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS
4. EMERGING INDUSTRIALIZATION = DEHUMANIZING AND ALIENATING



ROMANTICISM IN ART

1. Artistic expression = reflection of artist's inner feelings
2. Rejection of the restraint of classicism
3. Emphasized warmth, emotion, movement

PAINTERS –
 CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH
 J.M.W. TURNER
 EUGENE DELACROIX

ROMANTICISM IN MUSIC

- 18th century = Classicism
- 19th century = Romanticism
 1. Ludwig van Beethoven
 - a. 9 symphonies
 - b. piano works – Moonlight Sonata, the Appassionata, the Pathétique
 2. Hector Berlioz
 - a. French romantic composer
 - b. Symphony Fantastique



1. Emotions!
 Passion!
 Irrationality!

A Growing Distrust of Reason

Enlightenment

Society is good, curbing violent impulses!



Romanticism

Civilization corrupts!

- The essence of human experience is subjective and emotional.
- Human knowledge is a puny thing compared to other great historical forces.
- "Individual rights" are dangerous efforts at selfishness → the community is more important.

The Romantic Movement

- Began in the 1790s and peaked in the 1820s.
- Mostly in Northern Europe, especially in Britain and Germany.
- A reaction against classicism.
- The "Romantic Hero:"
 - Greatest example was Lord Byron
 - Tremendously popular among the European reading public.
 - Youth imitated his haughtiness and rebelliousness.



Characteristics of Romanticism

The Engaged & Enraged Artist:

- The artist apart from society.
- The artist as social critic/revolutionary.
- The artist as genius.

Caspar David Friedrich – “Man and Woman Contemplating the Moon”



*Wandering
Above the Sea
of Fog*

Caspar David
Friedrich,
1818

Lady Macbeth – Henry Fuseli, 1794



2. The “Rugged” Individual

Characteristics of Romanticism

The Individual / The Dreamer:

- Individuals have unique, endless potential.
- Self-realization comes through art
 - Artists are the true philosophers.

The Dreamer

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1835

*Solitary Tree*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1823



3. The Power & Fury of Nature

Characteristics of Romanticism

Glorification of Nature:

- Peaceful, restorative qualities [an escape from industrialization and the dehumanization it creates].
- Awesome, powerful, horrifying aspects of nature.
 - Indifferent to the fate of humans.
 - Overwhelming power of nature.

An Avalanche in the Alps

Philip James de Loutherbourg, 1803



Sunset After a Storm On the Coast of Sicily – Andreas Achenbach, 1853



The Deluge

Francis Danby, 1840

*Tree of Crows*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1822

*The Wreck of the Hope (aka The Sea of Ice)*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1827

*Shipwreck—* Joseph Turner, 1805*The Raft of the Medusa*

Théodore Géricault, 1819

*The Eruption of Vesuvius—* John Martin

4. Science Can Be Dangerous!

Isaac Newton – William Blake, 1795



Dr. Frankenstein's Adam & Eve??



5. The "New" Technology Is Dehumanizing

J. M. W. Turner- "The Fighting Téméraire
tugged to her last Berth to be broken"



Rain, Steam, and Speed
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844



*Rain,
Steam,
& Speed*
(details)



The Slave Ship
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1842



*The
Slave
Ship*
(details)



6. Romanticizing Country Life

Flatford Mill – John Constable, 1817



*The Corn
Field*

John Constable,
1826



The Hay Wain – John Constable, 1821



7. The Gothic: “Romanticizing” the Middle Ages

Characteristics of Romanticism

Revival of Past Styles:

- Gothic & Romanesque revival.
- “Neo-Gothic” architectural style.
- Medieval ruins were a favorite theme for art and poetry.

Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Ground
John Constable, 1825



Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows
John Constable, 1831



Hadleigh Castle – John Constable, 1829



Eldena Ruin

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1825

*Winter Landscape with Church*

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1811

*British houses of Parliament*

1840-1865



8. The Exotic, the Occult, and the Macabre!

Characteristics of Romanticism

The Supernatural:

- Ghosts, fairies, witches, demons.
- The shadows of the mind—dreams & madness.
- The romantics rejected materialism in pursuit of spiritual self-awareness.
- They yearned for the unknown and the unknowable.

Cloister Cemetery in the Snow

Caspar David Friedrich, 1817-1819



Abbey in an Oak Forest
Caspar David Friedrich, 1809–1810



*Mad Woman
With a
Mania
of Envy*

Theodore
Gericault,
1822–1823



Pity – William Blake, 1795



*The Great Red
Dragon and the
Woman Clothed
with the Sun*

William Blake,
1808–1810



Stonehenge – John Constable, 1836



Nightmare (The Incubus)
Henry Fuseli, 1781



Manfred and the Witch of the Alps
John Martin - 1837



Witches Sabbath

Francisco Goya,
1798



Procession of Flagellants on Good Friday
Francisco Goya, 1793



Saturn Devours His Son

Francisco Goya,
1819-1823



9. Nationalism

Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi

Eugène Delacroix,
1827



Liberty Leading the People
Eugène Delacroix, 1830



Detail of the
Musket Bearer

Delacroix, himself

The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire
Joseph Turner, 1815



His Majesty's Ship, "Victory"
(Trafalgar) – John Constable, 1806



*An Officer of the
Imperial Horse
Guard*

Théodore Géricault,
1814

*Napoleon
at the
St. Bernard
Pass*

David,
1803



The Shooting of May 3, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1815



Pandemonium – John Martin, 1841



10. Interest in Exotic Foreign Lands

Characteristics of Romanticism

Exoticism:

- The sexy "other."
- A sense of escape from reality.
- A psychological/moral justification of imperialism?

Grand Canal, Venice
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1835



Massacre of Chios – Eugène Delacroix, 1824



The Fanatics of Tangiers
Eugène Delacroix, 1837-1838



The Sultan of Morocco and his Entourage
Eugène Delacroix, 1845



Women of Algiers in Their Apartment
Eugène Delacroix, 1834



The Turkish Bath
Jean Auguste Ingres, 1852-1863



The Bullfight - Francisco Goya



Charge of the Mamelukes, May 2nd, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1814



The Royal Pavillion at Brighton
John Nash, 1815-1823



11. Return to Christian Mysteries

THE REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN THE AGE OF ROMANTICISM

- Revival of Protestantism in Europe in the late 18th- early 19th cent -> "the great awakening"

1. Methodism in Britain
2. Pietism in Germany



God as the Architect - William Blake, 1794



Elohim Creating Abraham
William Blake, 1805



Body of Abel Found by Adam and Eve
William Blake, 1825



Faust and Mephistopheles
Eugène Delacroix, 1826-1827



The Seventh Plague of Egypt
John Martin, 1823



The Cathedral

Gaspar David
Friedrich,
1818



The Cathedral
(details)

Gaspar David
Friedrich,
1818



The Great Age of the Novel

■ Gothic Novel:

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte (1847)
Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte (1847)

■ Historical Novel:

Ivanhoe - Sir Walter Scott (1819)
Les Misérables - Victor Hugo (1862)
The Three Musketeers - Alexander Dumas (1844)

The Great Age of the Novel

■ Science Fiction Novel:

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley (1817)
Dracula - Bramm Stoker (1897)

■ Novel of Purpose:

Hugh Trevor - Thomas Holcroft (1794)



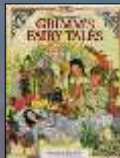
THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER



1. Novel written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
2. Werther becomes a hero and model of the Romantics
3. Young misunderstood truth seeking – girl he loves rejects him and he commits suicide

Other Romantic Writers

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- *Grimm's Fairy Tales*
(1814-1816)



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- *Faust* (1806-1832)

The Romantic Poets

- Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Lord Byron (George Gordon)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- William Wordsworth
- John Keats
- William Blake

George
Gordon's
(Lord Byron)
Poem

*The
Prisoner
of Chillon*



Mary
Shelley
Frankenstein



Sir
Walter
Scott

Ivanhoe



William
Wordsworth's
Poem,

*Tintern
Abbey*



Samuel
Taylor
Coleridge's
Poem,

*The Rime
of the
Ancient
Mariner*



Romanticism: The Great Paradox

The Political Implications

- Romanticism could reinforce the greatest themes of political liberalism or political conservatism.
- Contributed to growing nationalist movements.
 - The concepts of the *Volk* and the *Volkgeist*.
 - The uniqueness of cultures was emphasized.

Bibliographic Sources

- *CGFA: A Virtual Art Museum.*
<http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/fineart.htm>
- *"Romanticism" on Artchive.*
<http://artchive.com/artchive/romanticism.html>