POSTMODERNISM: A SHORT INTRODUCTION

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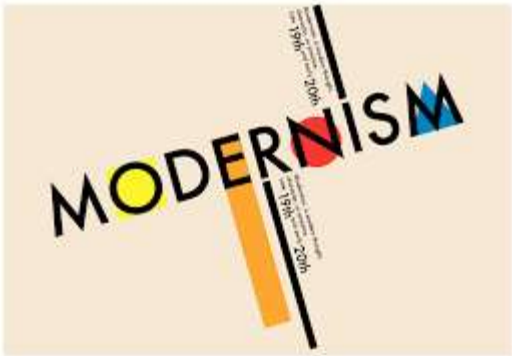
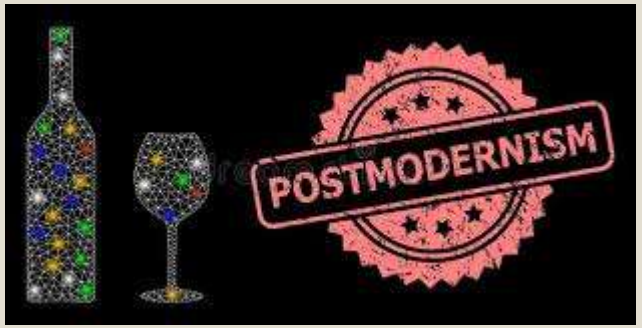
WHAT IS MODERNISM?

- A series of cultural movement during the late 19th and beginning of 20th centuries
- Flourished between 1860s and 1940s (when the world war ended)
- Excelled in logical thinking
- Focused on original works in the field of painting, sculpture, architecture and poetry



WHAT IS POSTMODERNISM?

- A confused state of cultural developments that came into existence after the period of modernism
- a cultural era after Modernism
- The period after 1960s constitute the beginning of postmodern era – period after World War II
- More complex when compared to Modernism
- More complex developments in economic, social and cultural circumstances
- Did not pay attention to original work
- Appears virtually in every sphere of our culture and media



POSTMODERNISM IN DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

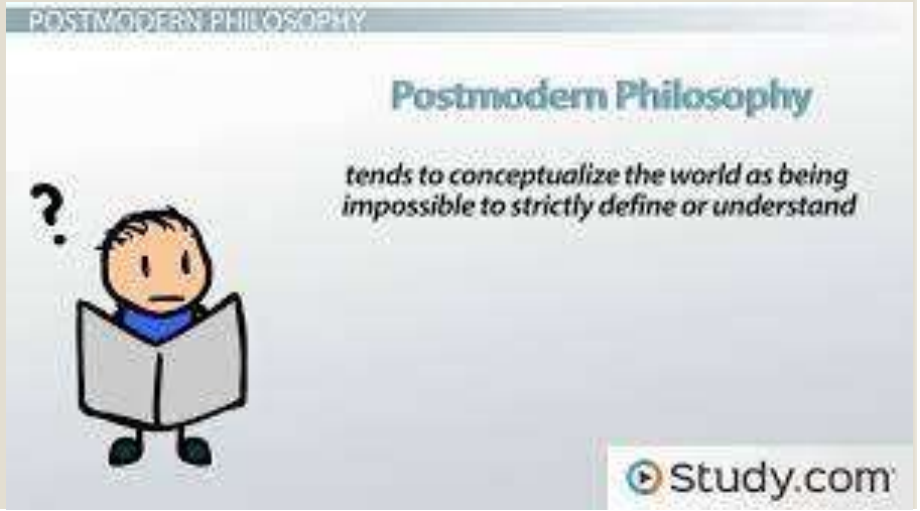
- The late 1950s for art
- The late 1960s for architecture
- The early 1980s for cultural theory
- The late 1980s for many social sciences

THE SUBJECTS OF POSTMODERNISM

- Literature
- Film
- Visual art
- Popular music
- Cultural theory
- Sociology
- Law
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Feminism
- Architecture
- Geography

CHARACTERISTICS OF POSTMODERNISM

- A society that lacks strong belief systems
- Noted for playfulness – individualism – living for the moment
- Anti-authoritarianism - refusal to recognize the authority of any single style or definition
- Anti-elitist
- Anti-hierarchical
- Obsession with fragments and fractures
- Resists the totalizing system
- Contemporary existence
- Contemporary social experience
- Collapse of social boundaries



KEY IDEAS OF POSTMODERNISM

- Fragmentation - prefers difference over uniformity
- Rejection of meta-narratives
- Attack on scientific truth – rejects science narratives
- Emphasis on local narratives - the narratives of the grass roots people
- Patische
- Hyper reality in media
- Techno culture
- Deconstruction
- Popular culture
- Sub-culture
- Denial of history
- End of empiricism
- Seeks heterogeneity – pluralism – constant innovation

SOURCE: Tim Woods' Beginning Postmodernism (2nd Edition)

Thank you!