

BLAS 110: African American Art
Short Answer Questions for Quizzes and Essay #3

CHAPTER 6: MODERNISM AND THE HARLEM RENASSIANCE

1. Describe the connection between Barthe's training as a dancer and his sculpture.
2. Why were Barthe's works described as non-political?
3. Describe the formal elements of Barthe's sculpture.
4. Define academic Primitivism and how does it compare to the Neo-primitive style.
5. Describe Johnson's expressionist and woodblock style and their individual effects.
6. What inspired Johnson's content painting technique in his woodblock paintings?
7. Define Negritude?
8. Describe the formal elements of van der Zee's photographs? (see powerpoint for van der Zee)
9. Describe van der Zee's intent when taking his photographs?

CHAPTER 7: SOCIAL REALISM

10. Describe the style Social Realism?
11. Why were Murals in public venues important?
12. Describe the message Charles Alston sent with his Medicine (Modern Medicine) mural and why is the location of the mural an ideal location to communicate this message?
13. Describe the abstract elements in Woodruff's *The Card Players* (see powerpoint).
14. Which Mexican artists inspired Woodruff's *Mutiny Aboard the Amistad* and in what way?
15. Describe the content of Woodruff's *Mutiny...* mural?
16. Describe the characteristics of Modernist/International style architecture (see Williams building)
17. List some of the major achievements of Paul Revere Williams as an architect.
18. Besides the Insurance Building, what other types of buildings did Williams design?
19. Describe the Bauhaus style of architecture.
20. Describe the dual styles appear in Charles White's prints and paintings (see powerpoint)?
21. What types of subjects did Charles White focus on and why?

22. Which African American artists had communist affiliations and how did these ideals manifest in their works of art?
23. Describe a lithograph.
24. Describe the way in which the formal elements of Blackburn's paintings strengthen the message of the painting.
25. Compare and contrast Blackburn and Crichtlow's styles (focus on formal elements).
26. Describe the documentary and communist elements in Blackburn and Brown's prints.
27. Chapter review question (Why did so many artists travel to Paris and what did they experience during their time in the city?)

CHAPTER 8: MID-TWENTIETH-CENTURY TRANSITIONS AND SURREALISM

28. Discuss Afrocentrism in relation to Elizabeth Catlett's sculpture and prints.
29. What cultural icon is represented in Catlett's *Homage to my Young Black Sisters* and why does this symbol empower the sculpture?
30. What traditions does Catlett draw upon when creating her sculpture?
31. Why did Catlett travel to Mexico?
32. Define photomontage.
33. Describe projections (Romare Bearden).
34. Describe the connection between Bearden's projections and early African American art?
35. Describe some of the black cultural sources for Bearden's images.
36. Define multi-media.
37. Describe the visual effects of Bearden's collage process.
38. What did Jacob Lawrence want to record in his paintings and how did he hope to affect his audience?
39. What was the Great Migration?
40. Describe the ideal way to view Lawrence's paintings?
41. Describe hard edge painting (see Jacob Lawrence)..
42. Describe the styles that inspired Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence.

43. Why were Knight's paintings described in feminine terms?
44. What reoccurring theme appears in Knight's work and how is this theme represented visually?
45. Define Jungian (Jung is pronounced Young) archetype and what is the meaning the archetype represented in Knight's painting.
46. Which artists inspired John Biggers and how does their influence show up in his work?
47. Describe the way in which Biggers and Gwathmey maintained the folk tradition.
48. Discuss the transformation of social realism into a style that represented nostalgic ideas (see Biggers and Gwathmey)
49. Why was Rosenwald Fellowship an important award for an artist?
50. What events led many artists switch to pure abstraction (differs from modernism) ?
51. Describe Magic Realism.
52. Describe the way in which Hughie Lee-Smith's works are an example of Magic Realism?
53. Describe the types of themes that reoccur in Lee-Smith's paintings?
54. Briefly describe the existentialist references in Lee-Smith's paintings.
55. What was Cortor's early style and why did he make the switch to Magic Realism?
56. Why was Cortor's *Americana* such a controversial subject?
57. Where did Cortor travel to capture the "black experience"?
58. Describe the symbolism in Cortor's painting.
59. Describe the "types" of female subjects does Cortor portray?
60. Define the *Mammy*, *jezebel* and *sapphire* myth?
61. Describe the formal elements in Rose Piper's *Grievin' Hearted* that enhance the content.
62. Why is Minnie Evans considered a folk artist despite her fine art status?
63. What is meant by Collective Unconscious (Carl Jung) and how does this phrase relate to art?
64. Describe some of the reoccurring themes in Evans works and why do these themes enhance one another.
65. Define Art Brut, Outsider Art.

66. Describe the Modernist and Art Brut elements in Bill Traylor's work.
67. Describe Traylor's life experiences that led to him becoming a painter.
68. According to Edmondson, why did he start to sculpt?
69. Why were Edmondson's sculptures described as primitive and why was this ideal?
70. Why were modern Folk Artists idolized by many academically trained artists?
71. Describe the German Expressionist elements in Clementine Hunter's paintings.
72. Describe the event represented in Hunter's Funeral Procession and why the colors appropriately represent this type of funeral.
73. Describe the other types of objects Hunter produced.
74. Where did Hunter reside when creating her paintings and why was this site important historically and also during Hunter's lifetime?
75. Describe the content and location of Hunter's Louisiana Life mural and why it is significant historically and present day.
76. Describe the characteristics of folk art as seen in Horace Pippin's paintings?
77. Describe the narrative qualities that appear in Pippin's *John Brown going to his hanging* and how does this element tie into WPA paintings?
78. What type of photography is Gordon Parks most known for?
79. Describe the contradictions in Parks' *American Gothic*.
80. Define appropriation.
81. What did Parks appropriate when taking the photograph *American Gothic* and what does he redefine as a result?
82. Describe Parks' style of fashion photography.
83. Describe Roy DeCarava's pictorial and documentary elements in his photographs.
84. Where did he take the majority of his photographs and why was this important.
85. Describe the reasons behind the conflict between Parks and DeCarava.

CHAPTER 9: ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

86. What types of questions are artists asking in the 40s, 50s into the 60s that differ from the Renaissance period?

87. Define Abstract Expressionism (AE).
88. Who was Clement Greenberg and what were his ideas about art?
89. Define non-representational/non-objective.
90. Why did artists “subordinate blackness” in some of their paintings?
91. Describe the expressive quality of Delaney’s painting and how this technique enhanced the content of his paintings.
92. Why is Delaney’s abstract work still social realist?
93. Define Impasto and how it affects color and content in Delaney’s paintings?
94. Why did Delaney use the color yellow in many of his painting?
95. What galleries were displayed works by African American Artists?
96. Describe the Zen elements in Romare Bearden’s AE paintings?
97. What terms are used to describe Lewis AE style?
98. Why do some artists leave their works “untitled”?
99. Why did Lewis want his abstract works to be interpreted and what did he do to aid the viewer in this interpretation?
100. Why were some viewers resistant to the AE works produced by black artists?
101. Describe CoBrA.
102. Describe biomorphic surrealism.
103. Who inspired Edward Clark to switch from realism to AE?
104. Describe Edward Clark’s “non-traditional” approach to painting. (2 ways)
105. Describe the effects of his painting style.
106. What led to the fall of many Harlem based art galleries?
107. Describe the Minimalist style.
108. How did Melvin Edwards enhance his minimalist approach to sculpture that differed from other minimalist?
109. Describe the way in which the viewer would interact with Edwards sculpture.

110. What symbolic meaning is associated with Edwards' *Gates of Ogun* in terms of content and formal elements.
111. Describe the tensions (material and meaning) that occur in Barbara Chase-Riboud's sculpture?
112. Describe the connections between Chase-Riboud's sculpture, African American, African and Oceanic masks.
113. Describe the feminine elements of Chase-Riboud's sculpture.

CHAPTER 10: POP AND AGITPROP: THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT

114. Define the postmodern condition.
115. Define *agitprop*.
116. Define master narratives and why do artists choose to deconstruct them?
117. Describe the types of ideologies/concepts do artists deconstruct in their postmodern works of art.
118. Describe the events caused civil unrest in 60's America.
119. What was significant about Brown vs. the Board of Education?
120. Describe the goals of SNCC, CORE and SCLC and how did their approaches to addressing social injustices differ? (do not list the name of the organizations, describe what they were and their goals)
121. Which deaths in the 60's brought into question the self-defined moral superiority of the U.S.
122. Define and describe Spiral and who were some of their members.
123. Why was the Black and White Exhibition of 1965 significant in relation to the Black Arts Movement?
124. Describe the effects the events of the early to mid 60's had on art.
125. What image was the source for Gammon's *Freedom Now* and why is this an example of pop art?
126. What was the Black Emergency Cultural Coalition BECC.
127. Describe Edmund A Gaither's definition of a "black show" and "black art" in the popular media?
128. How did the attitudes towards pre-1950s black artists change during the 60s?
129. Benny Andrews is known for what types of images?

130. Who is referenced in Andrews' *Champion* painting and statements are made as a result?
131. Describe the Weusi Aesthetic in the work of Ademola Olugebefola and Ben Jones.
132. Describe the African symbolism in Olugebefola's *Emerging Spirit*.
133. Describe the purpose of OBAC and which artists were involved in this group?
134. Describe the ideologies of the group AfriCOBRA
135. Describe Jae Jarrell's background and how was she able to support the rise of the black style with her artwork?
136. Describe Jarrell's Urban Wall Suit and Revolutionary Suit, the design and her inspiration for the style.
137. List a few of the public murals that were part of the Black Arts Movement period and the content the artists focused on and why.
138. Describe David Hammons body prints (process and effects).
139. Describe conceptual art?
140. Who were the Chicago Seven and how do they relate to Hammons *Injustice Case*?
141. Describe the contradictions in Hammons *Injustice Case*.
142. Why is Hammons work a good example of Pop art/Neo Dada?
143. Describe the social message Hammons is sending with his *Higher Goals piece*.
144. Describe the connection between *Higher Goals* and works from Africa.