

Speak Out

DECEMBER ISSUE - ARTS & CULTURE



Drag as an Art Form

In its simplest terms, drag is a gender-bending art form by which individuals - including cis male, non-binary and transgender individuals - use clothing and makeup to exaggerate and replicate female features. However, as drag is one of the most misunderstood art forms, this definition only scratches the surface of what it's all about (Full article on page 3)



Art & Lebanese Culture

Art expresses ideas which revolve around the way we think and see ourselves. Art is a mirror of our world view. The Lebanese people are hopeful and resilient individuals - having gone through the worst situations possible - and art represents that general character in its many forms. Take for example the famous icon Fairuz whose music brought hope to the Lebanese people in times of war and despair. (Full article on page 14)



Movement of Surrealism

Having decided that there is so much more to the human mind than all fields have shown, Freud has become a widely influential figure regarding psychoanalysis. The absurdity of the subconscious became an unfearful topic, whereby the human race took on a newly found understanding of themselves... (Full article on page 17)



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Drag as an Art Form

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"We're all born naked and the rest is drag" – RuPaul Charles

What is Drag?

In its simplest terms, drag is a gender-bending art form by which individuals - including cis male, non-binary and transgender individuals - use clothing and makeup to exaggerate and replicate female features. However, as drag is one of the most misunderstood art forms, this definition only scratches the surface of what it's all about.

Drag is the art form often attracted by hyper-creative and artistic members of the LGBTQ+ community who feel marginalized by their society. It's been viewed as "therapeutic", "an escape" and "liberating", as those who express themselves via drag - also known as Drag Queens - find that the character they create for themselves allows them to express their inner selves without judgement and restraint. They channel their artistic visions through their drag performances, be it in nightclubs, LGBTQ+ bars, RuPaul's Drag Con (more about this below), world tours, and more. A typical drag show will involve, but is not limited to, lip syncs, elaborate performances, and some clever banter with the audience.



Trixie Mattel & Katya

A very common misconception of drag queens is that they strive to be biological females



Alaska

and intend to project that image onto their audience, which often includes a wide demographic of people of all sorts of backgrounds. Drag queens instead use makeup and clothing to **exaggerate** and accentuate 'staple' female features - high eyebrows, plump lips, contoured noses, cinched waists, and elongated figures - except, unlike modern-day social media, the variety of drag queens - of different shapes, types, races, and backgrounds - dominating the industry serves the crucial importance of avoiding the creation of a single image of what the "perfect drag queen" is.

Now, why do we love drag queens?

First and foremost, the environment of positivity and entertainment which characterizes the drag industry greatly attracts audience members, and the personalities

which dominate it are often idolized by fans, who identify with them and find comfort in watching them perform. For instance, drag queens such as Katya Zamolodchikova, Lady Bunny, Alaska, Detox and Bob The Drag Queen are often known for their impeccable humor and overall likeability, and their ability to connect to other people - be it through social medias or during live shows - represents what drag is all about, which is acceptance, positivity and self-enjoyment. Some drag queens have their own drag social media platforms - e.g. Raja and Raven review RPDR episodes on “Fashion Photo Ruview”, Trixie and Katya host “UNHhhh”, and Violet Chachki has her own YT channel for makeup tutorials, Met Gala vlogs, and more - which they use to better connect with their fans as well as further present their entertainment to the world.



Raja Gemini & Raven

Secondly, drag tackles global issues in dire need of addressing. Several drag queens use their outfits to display messages such as “Black Lives Matter”, “Time’s Up” and more during shows or protests, and the conversations brought up in drag shows often contain subliminal political messages - in other words, drag is a form of art through which activism can be channelled. In addition, it addresses sensitive, almost ‘taboo’ problems which plague modern-day society. On the reality competition *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, several drag queens came forward about their struggles with HIV, eating disorders, religious issues, cancer, and more, and this was all met with gratefulness from fans who feel heard and seen. As an art form dedicated to self-expression and inclusivity, drag has become an extremely important platform to shelter marginalized individuals and highlight the needs of our society.

The Different Types of Drag Queens

Noting that the essence of what makes a drag queen is their ability to entertain, people feel entertained by different things. The different perspectives on what should make a drag queen in addition to people expressing their art in different ways, led to the branching of the art to entertain in different possibilities.



Bob the Drag Queen

- **Fishy Queens:** the pure essence of beauty and female impersonation. These queens revolve their drag persona around a hyperfeminized version of women.
- **Look Queens:** these queens are the designers of the drag community. They have an eye for fashion that inspires not only other queens, but professional fashion designers.



Violet Chachki



Bianca Del Rio

- **Comedy Queens:** these queens are the comedians of the bunch. Not only are they hilarious and relatable, but they appeal to the masses because who doesn't love a good laugh?
- **Weird Queens:** these queens are the most interesting. They represent people that aren't necessarily women per se. Instead, they have a more avantgarde approach and step out of the box to create something never seen before.

Even though there is such a variety of what a drag queen could be, the categories are endless. Art is forever evolving, and drag is no exception. For all we know, there could be a kid in their bedroom right now creating something the world has never seen before.

The History of Drag – how did it come to be?

Drag's history as an art form dates back to Shakespearean times and is well tied to the theatre as a whole. In the 17th century, when Shakespeare's plays premiered at the Globe Theatre in London, women were not allowed onstage. However, as we all know, the majority of Shakespeare's plays include female characters - Juliet, Lady Macbeth, Regan, etc. -



Drag in Shakespeare Plays



Julian Eltinge

and so men were required to dress as women to fill the parts.

This was believed to be the start of drag, which stood for "Dressed Resembling a Girl", although the term is also said to have originated from the fact that the men's dresses would "drag" on the floor as they walked.

Although drag originally fulfilled a utilitarian role in theatre, it later became used for entertainment purposes in the late 19th century, as

female impersonation was introduced to American culture in a genre known as “vaudeville”, which encompassed burlesque, comedy, song and dance. Through vaudeville, the first well-known drag queen came to be, Julian Eltinge, whose popularity extended beyond vaudeville and rendered him the highest paid actor of the time, and in 1880, William Dorsey Swann began hosting drag balls at his home.

It was only since the 1930s that drag intertwined itself with the LGBTQ+ community. During Prohibition, homosexual men used underground clubs to express themselves, and eventually felt free enough to delve into drag. This was known as the “Pansy Craze”, when speakeasies where drag was welcome became increasingly popular, and this continued well into the 1960s.



The Pansy Craze

Meanwhile, the law was criminalizing the gay community and police would raid bars that catered to them. It was, in fact, the New York mafia that provided drag queens with a platform for expression, and in 1966, a member of the Genovese crime family bought Stonewall and transformed it into a hub of LGBT culture and of riots (covered below).

Eventually, drag made its way into mainstream culture, particularly via movies such as *Paris is Burning* and *The Birdcage* (I watched this one, and I greatly recommend it). By the 1990s, drag was at the helm of its acceptance, thanks to RuPaul Charles, the self-proclaimed queen of drag, whose role in this art form will be discussed later in this article.



The Stonewall Riots

The Stonewall Riots

As previously detailed, in 1966, a member of the Genovese crime family purchased the Stonewall Inn - formerly a ‘straight’ bar - in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village in order to transform it into an LGBT-friendly bar, one of the few open to drag queens as well. Police raids were very common then, when the law criminalized alcohol, dancing and clubbing in general. However, corrupt police would usually tip off Mafia-run bars to give owners a head start to stash alcohol and hide other illegal activities.

On June 28 1969, however, Stonewall Inn was raided by total surprise - nobody was tipped off this time. Police stormed into the bar, confiscated bootlegged alcohol, confronted the patrons, and arrested 13 people, including those who violated the “gender-appropriate clothing

statute” of the time - namely, drag queens. People did not disperse from the bar as they were told to, and, fed up with constant police harassment, stood outside the bar and became increasingly agitated as people were aggressively manhandled and shoved into police vans. Ultimately, one person decided to throw a brick at the police officers - Marsha P. Johnson, a drag queen. Additionally, at the forefront of the movement against LGBT-inclined police intolerance was Flawless Sabrina, who organized drag queen pageants all around the U.S. and was arrested multiple times for being out in public and on talk shows in drag wear. The fight continues today, but as the world of drag propels itself more and more into mainstream culture, so does the movement for inclusivity and acceptance which started at Stonewall on June 28th 1969.



Marsha P. Johnson

The Role of Drag in Promoting Inclusivity

As previously mentioned, a common misconception is that drag queens strive to be biological females which, needless to say, is not the case. The phenomenon where people discover their gender dysphoria through drag does happen, however it isn't the case for most people. Surprisingly, even trans men (female to male) are even partaking in the art of drag even though it is not the gender identity they identify with out of drag. Thus, the two are completely independent.



Peppermint

The community is so diverse that it's available to anyone to dabble into regardless of their gender or sexual identity. Now, the previously limited drag community to just gay cis men, has evolved into a whole other world filled with creative souls and entertaining persona, and we couldn't be prouder.

RuPaul's Drag Race however, although known for its role in the globalization of drag, has not been as inclusive as people hope. This includes not casting any trans females due to the host, RuPaul's, transphobia. Even though trans women have appeared on the show (e.g. Peppermint, Sonique), it only happens when they present themselves as male in their audition tapes and decide to come out on set. Nevertheless, the drag community is not limited to Drag Race, and even though it is an amazing steppingstone to dive into the world of drag for the first time, it doesn't end there.

RuPaul's Drag Race & the Globalization of Drag

The drag queen at the forefront of a newfound acceptance of drag culture in the 1990s was RuPaul Charles, arguably the most famous drag queen. The song that catapulted his rise to fame is the 1993 single, *Supermodel*, which landed him the opportunity to become the first drag queen spokesperson for M.A.C. cosmetics, get his own talk show on VH1, and more.

Eventually, the global platform handed to him supported the launching of his reality competition series *RuPaul's Drag Race*. On the show, contestants compete in challenges - from performing in musicals, to celebrity impersonations, designing themed outfits, hosting talk shows and more - walk runways, lip synch, create custom outfits, and more. The end goal is the crowning of America's Next Drag Superstar, and among previous season winners include Sasha Velour, Bianca Del Rio, Violet Chachki, Raja Gemini, and more. However, the show also serves



Sasha Velour

as an important platform to discuss several issues, from family rejection, to the struggle with HIV, cancer, to eating disorders, and more. It's allowed family members to gain a new perspective on relatives who compete on the show, and it's provided the queens themselves with an important platform to express themselves and stand at the forefront of the movement towards acceptance.

If it weren't for RuPaul and the platform he created, not only would drag queens not be



Sultana

able to pursue their profession full-time, but the exposure to the drag community would be a fraction of what it is today, and this article would never have existed. The effect of *RuPaul's Drag Race* is not limited to the United States, where it originally started. The show itself now has several versions such as *Drag Race Holland*, *Thailand*, *Canada's Drag Race* (co-judged by *Drag Race US* alum Brooke Lynn Hynes), *RuPaul's Drag Race UK*, and many more currently in the works. Beyond the *Drag Race* franchise, the exposure the show has provided to the art of drag has inspired people from all over the world to express themselves within it,

even in Lebanon, with common drag names being Sultana (@sultanathequeen and my personal favorite), Luxe (@luuuxxe), and Narcissa (@itisnarcissa). These pillars of the LGBTQ+ community have increased the tolerance of queer culture all around the world with their bravery and creativity.

Art for Activism

AYA ZEIN – 10 IP

Activism is the act of “doing”. It is taking action for political and/or social change. Activism often invokes the unification of people for a cause. From the “Black Lives Matter” movement to the fight against AIDS, people have created many ways to inform and protest. One of those ways involves the translation of struggles and concepts to art. For example, when you think of the “Hippie Movement”, you think of the “flower power” art. The flowers were a symbol of passive resistance and nonviolence. Furthermore, the art that we link to certain movements not only become symbols for their respective cause, but also become a way to invoke interest and ignite discussion. Throughout the years, we’ve seen works that stretch across all art forms that have moved us or even caused controversy – but what they all have in common is their ability to catch attention and keep us vocal about their respective issue.

Art as a platform for activism is most often seen in the form of illustrations, sculptures, music, films, and dance.

To further get you familiarized with the concept of activism in art, we can relate it to Lebanon. The Phoenix statue located in Martyr’s Square is a symbol of this country’s hope and its ability to rise up after all the adversity it has faced. Though it stood physically in Lebanon first, the Phoenix made appearances all over the world and became the mascot of the movement.

Another international example would be the infamous Banksy. He is an anonymous street artist known for his unconventional and satirical work. He is known for leaving his work in places like the Louvre and Disneyland, and lets his art speak for itself most of the time. His works represent a plethora of political matters, such as the existence and beauty of Palestine in the light of the Israeli-Palestine crisis. Whether you love or hate him, his art always gets the public talking and this serves to further propagate his activism.

Another format of activist art that we see is music, which is arguably the easiest to access and the most straightforward form of activism. We listen to music every day, although we don’t necessarily seek out anthems of activism. We often realize what the song means after we stumble across it and fully grasp the meaning behind the lyrics, which is why music is so special to activism. We initially become aware of all these struggles on an individual level, as we listen, and our understanding of our favorite artists’ takes at activism bring us closer to fans of the

same music. Music really has the power to unify voices and get an army of people marching to the same beat. For instance, Kendrick Lamar's song "Alright" became one of the BLM anthems. It is a song that highlighted the existence of light at the end of the tunnel of struggle, and it greatly unified all the struggles and voices of the black community and kept their spirits high as they marched in the streets. Other powerful activism songs are Beyonce & Kendrick Lamar's "Freedom", Z-Ro & Mike Dean's "No Justice No Peace", Aretha Franklin's "Respect", John Lennon's "Imagine", Ariana Grande's "God Is A Woman", and Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On".

In addition, movies and short films are also crucial to pushing conversations. Movies can place you within the perspective of a person with any particular social struggle. In "The Hate You Give", you witness modern racism and police brutality through the eyes of a black American teenage girl. In "To the Bone", your eyes are opened to the severity of eating disorders and how destructive and real they are. Movies also have the power to make you passionate about something. After watching "Knock Down the House", I felt very empowered by the women's successes, but I was also exposed to all the obstacles one faces trying to make a difference and how difficult and taxing it is to lead change. The emotions that documentaries and movies evoke within you undoubtedly inspire you to learn more and seek change.

Lastly, another very powerful means of activism is dance. Stereotypes and injustices that strongly affect dancers but still involve all people can be manifested through their performances. For example, fatphobia and eating disorders are unfortunately very prominent in the dance industry as well as the rest of the world. An influencer named Amanda LaCount gained her fame through her performances on America's Got Talent. She is a phenomenal dancer who advocates for body positivity and self-love through her dance. Other ways dancers stood up to adversity were in the BLM movements. During the protests, people of color performed their traditional cultural dances, and this allowed them to showcase the beauty in their individual cultures. Dance is very efficient at telling stories without words. Furthermore, dancers like Jojo Gomez and Janelle Ginestra use their choreography to bring attention to things like anxiety, sexual harassment, depression, and more.

In conclusion, the arts invoke emotions and inspire people to make a change. Watching, hearing, creating, and feeling are so important to learning and reflecting. Art provides people with a platform to capture the struggles, feelings, and beliefs of the world and turn them into something beautiful. Undoubtedly, art has no language and people from far and wide can feel inspired, moved, and united with a community of like-minded individuals through it.

How has art been affected by Lebanese culture & who we are?

STEPHANIE ZOGHBI – IB1

Lebanon: a country so small but so beautiful. A country rich with culture and traditions. A country famous for its mountains and beaches and rivers and cities. How is all that reflected in our art? And how is our identity represented in that?



Art – including music, literature, paintings or theatre, etc, – is something that has been greatly affected by our culture and our way of thinking. This is shown through the way art communicates our culture and mindset, how it preserves our traditions and how it brings out our people's opinions.

Art expresses ideas which revolve around the way we think and see ourselves. Art is a mirror of our world view. The Lebanese people are hopeful and resilient individuals – having gone through the worst situations possible – and art represents that general character in its many forms. Take for example the famous icon Fairuz whose music brought hope to the Lebanese people in times of war and despair. The song “Bahebak Ya Lebanon” (بحبك يا لبنان) contains following the line:



قلتلتن بلدنا عم يخلق جديد
لبنان الكرامي والشعب العنيد

Which translates to: “I told them our land is being reborn, the Lebanon of dignity and a people that perseveres”. Fairuz is a symbol of patriotism to the Lebanese people – a value we all cherish. Her patriotic songs reflect our resilience and hope for the ideal Lebanon we all strive to live in.

Being geographically locked by a huge mountain range from the East and open to the Mediterranean Sea at the West, we find ourselves open to the West and its culture, yet still firmly grounded in our Eastern roots. Our ancestors have always

been great sailors and traders who explored the world around them. This open-minded, risk-taking entrepreneurial trait is part of our Lebanese identity, and we see it clearly displayed in our art. Fairuz's art is a perfect reflection of that dichotomy that makes us unique.

Her songs encourage us to stay determined and to remember our resilience and true identity – a prime example of how art communicates our mindset and culture.

Another aspect of our culture are traditions which we cherish in a country rich with them. Traditions often unite us no matter our background and a prime example is the one and only Dabke. The Dabke is a traditional folk dance which combines circle dance and line dancing, mainly performed at weddings and other joyous occasions. It originally started in rural villages where roofs of houses were made of mud and twigs and would break apart when the seasons would change. This would require villagers to stamp on the roof to fix it and make it evenly flat. However, this needed to be synchronized and so they decided to come up with a pattern. They would enjoy this with some music as well, and thus Dabke was born. This shows how this beautiful dance originated through helping one another and enjoying coming together for a good cause. This form of dancing is also inclusive of all Lebanese people and is a symbol of unity. It is a reflection of Lebanon's diversity and the fact that all of us, no matter our gender and religion, can join to celebrate anything and everything in a fun and traditional dance together. This art form is thus another symbol of our culture and how we think.



Furthermore, culture affects our art through the way it brings out people's opinions. We have many art forms that are beautiful and allow people to express themselves, but one of the main forms is graffiti. For instance, the above piece, which was drawn in Beirut when the Lebanese revolution started in October 2019, illustrates the protests against the social, economic and political conditions in Lebanon and the artist wanted to give a message of hope for the achievement

of our human rights, therefore bringing his perspective out for us to see and identify with.

Another example is this piece which was created after the Beirut explosion. The artist wanted to depict the city with two pigeons representing peace and the word “hope”, which allowed their message to come through. Graffiti is an example of how culture and the way we think affect art, and these expressions make us who we are, which is Lebanese.



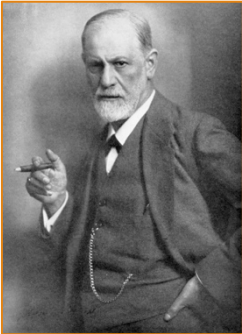
To conclude, art, in all its forms, is affected by our culture and how we think through the way art communicates our ideas, how it preserves our traditions and embodies our opinions. Remember to always remember where you came from and embrace our beautiful culture.

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The Movement of Surrealism

THALIA KATTOURA – SECONDARY III LP



"One day, in retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful." - Sigmund Freud, the founding father of psychoanalysis.

Having decided that there is so much more to the human mind than all fields have shown, Freud has become a widely influential figure regarding psychoanalysis. The absurdity of the subconscious became an unfeared topic, whereby the human race took on a newly found understanding of themselves. However, people tend to give little credit to the extraordinary way that art has responded to Freudian theories.

Back in 1916, during World War I, the population was undoubtedly deprived of justice. Despite those circumstances, many individuals were not willing to be silent. And by individuals, I mean the ones who formed the Dada movement to rebel against political unfairness and the bourgeoisie. The word "Dada" came from the founder of the revolution himself, poet Hugo Ball.



After opening an artistic nightclub in Switzerland dedicated to the movement, Ball and his friend Richard Huelsenbeck decided on "Dada." Its definition is different in every language, and no one knows its true meaning. Regardless, the Dada allegiance was composed of artists and writers that wanted to express absurdity in their work. Their art would cause discomfort to whoever looked at it, and for a good reason too. They wanted their work to be irrational, as a response to the chaos of society and its political instability.

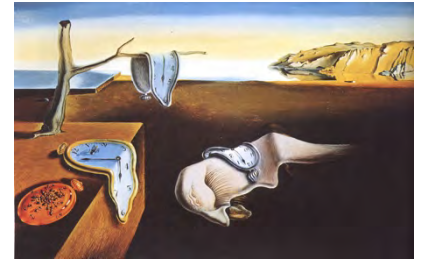
It was not supposed to make sense or even look appealing. They mixed dreams with reality, objects with other unimaginable ones, and the subconscious mind with the conscious one. The most iconic works of that movement were the *Karawane* poem, *Fountain*, *LHOOQ*, and the *Chinese Nightingale*.

Then came Surrealism, a literary and artistic movement that shook history to its core. Dadaist poet André Breton greatly admired Freud and his theories of the unconscious mind. He thus wrote the *Surrealist Manifesto* in 1924 and founded Surrealism as a form of art. Simply put, Surrealism intended to bring back Dadaist art without the political purpose behind it.



Additionally, Breton wanted to expose what the 17th century Enlightenment movement did not: creativity that springs from unconscious and irrational thoughts. Many artists outside of Dadaism began to adopt Surrealism, eager to liberate themselves in their work. But how can someone create such a raw form of art? The most effective technique was automatism, which is acting without any concerns or thought. When it came to writing, authors would write whatever came to mind without any adjustments. As for paintings, Max Ernst, who partook in Surrealism and Dadaism, invented rubbing and scraping. He also introduced dripping paint onto the canvas and attaching different types of

pictures onto one frame. His ways had inspired artists all across the world. For instance, a famous Spanish artist named Salvador Dali had created works based on his dreams. He is well known for painting "The Persistence of Memory," an artwork that perfectly represents the unconscious aspect of Surrealism. Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Vladimir Kush, and many others also sought their passion through this type of creativity.



Surrealism is more underrated than it should be, considering that it still is a vital part of art today. Modern artists, such as Julie Curtiss and Mary Reid Kelly, have continued to enrich Surrealism using psychoanalytical theories. Many others are still inspired by its Dadaist history, creating Surrealist works to revolt against political systems (*HEY, PASSENGER, PASSIER MIR DIE NILLN'-PASS-AGE* by Jonathan Meese).

Like Freud said, "*the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful.*" Although Surrealism has gone through challenging periods, it turned out to be a beautiful and profound form of art.

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Instagram Polls

AYA ZEIN – 10 IP

In this issue, the newspaper covers the topic of the arts and culture. Knowledge of trends, fashion, music, etc. isn't mandatory but it is generally highly entertaining to learn about. Keeping up with trends and reading from magazines is fun. In this segment, the students were asked questions on this topic via the Speakout Instagram.

The first few questions were about the Grammys. We asked what the students thought of the 2020 Grammys and many seemed to be unhappy about the results. They mentioned that only a handful of nominations were valid and that artists that actually deserved them were "robbed" of due recognition. When asked who they wanted to be nominated, students mentioned artists like SZA, The Weeknd, Lorde, etc...

The second set of questions were about the students' preferences within this topic. The first question was about the students' favorite art form. The students mentioned dance, poetry, music, drag, and one said, "SZA" implying she is an art form of her own. The second question was: who is your favorite performer/creator from previously mentioned art forms? The students mentioned: Sasha Velour, Frank Ocean, Willow Smith, The Wombats, H.E.R, Dua Lipa, Bianca Del Rio, Katya Zamolodchikova and most frequently mentioned, SZA. The following question was about their favorite music genres. Students mentioned Alternative, Soft rock, Rock, R&B, Soul, and Pop. Bringing it back to Lebanon and wrapping up this set, the students were asked about their favorite aspect in Lebanese culture. Almost everyone that responded said the food and we highly agree; Lebanese food is the best – super diverse, healthy, and highly delicious.

The third and final set of questions were more about the students. The first question was about what art forms they would want to learn. Students mentioned singing, playing instruments, ballet, and dance in general. The final question they were asked was what role they thought the arts played in overcoming social issues. They said that they create a lot of influence in movements and that artists use their platforms and formats to discuss important topics, like discrimination, inequality, etc...

The arts are very important to us, especially as young people. They can be a means of entertainment or even personal and collective growth. The arts can teach discipline, as seen in ballet, or can be purely cathartic, as seen in a comedic film. In conclusion, we love the arts in all its forms.

Follow our Instagram @bhs.speakout to participate in the polls, help pick our next theme, or just stay up-to-date with us. Thank you to those who are reading and participating!

Aerial Photography in Lebanon

GIO ABBOUD – IB1

Definition

As most of you know, the term “aerial photography” refers to photos taken from an aircraft or other flying object such as drones, balloons or airplanes. This bird’s eye view of the world is known as an aerial perspective. By placing ourselves in the air and looking down – in other words, getting a view of what birds can see – we are able to create aerial photographs and opening a whole new perspective, giving viewers insight into what it looks like from above. Aerial photography can be seen as a form of art and plays a role in defining culture.



Yaachouch Lake Lebanon – Autumn 2020
– by Gio Abboud

History



The first ever form of aerial photography was accomplished by Gaspard-Félix Tournachon in 1858 through the use of a balloon and camera. His technique later evolved, as he used a kite instead using an explosive charge on a timer to take photographs from the air. He was able to capture magnificent shots of the city through a newly discovered perspective, from above.

An aerial view showing Stonebridge Road, Stamford Hill, and Seven Sisters Curve, part of the Tottenham and Hampstead Junction Railway, taken from 2000ft

As we started entering the 20th century, aerial photography caught the eyes of military forces for its reconnaissance ability. Certain methods followed, and one special technique was the attachment of cameras to pigeons that would fly over the battlefield and capture critical information. This method was extensively used by the allies during WW1, and it was deemed to be surprisingly effective. Soon after the Great War, the idea of attaching these cameras on planes came forward and thus we got our first modern touch to aerial photography. This greatly affected the market for aerial photography as it has been implemented more efficiently into the armies and the commercial sector. Throughout the following century, the technology would be heavily worked on in order to reach where we currently are in terms of drones, rockets UAVs, etc.... all products which lead the market of aerial photography.



Julius Neubronner's pigeon with a camera strapped to it circa 1909

Platforms

To be able to perform aerial photography, there are many different platforms, each one unique to a specific scenario depending on the environment. For example, high-altitude imaging for archaeological purposes will require a more powerful and capable airplane able to carry a heavy duty camera at low temperature, whereas a wedding would need something less sophisticated, such as a drone.



Forward-looking infrared cameras installed on two Wing aircraft - By Capt Lynne Albert, CAP



DJI Mavic pro – drone quadcopter

Types of aerial imagery

Vertical aerial photographs – In vertical aerial images, the camera axis is in a vertical position. There is no tilt in the camera, and this is most commonly used in mapping, as a smaller amount of area is imaged.



Ayia Napa Cyprus – Summer 2019 – by Gio Abboud

Low oblique aerial photographs – By tilting the camera axis more than 3° , low oblique images are taken. These images are taken on the camera axis from the vertical axis with a deliberate deviation of 15° to 30° . The horizon in low-oblique images is not visible.



Halat Lebanon – Summer 2020 – by Gio Abboud

High oblique aerial – The camera axis has a higher degree of tilt with elevated oblique images. The camera angle is purposefully inclined from the vertical axis at about 60°. The horizon is visible in high-oblique aerial images and a wider region of land can be photographed.



Zaarour Lebanon – Spring 2020 – by Gio Abboud

Lebanon

It's easy to lose some of our love for Lebanon with the always-deteriorating bad news we're bombarded with, the severe hopelessness most of us experience, the tough living conditions we endure and the desperate urge of all of us to leave. However, Lebanon remains beautiful with its many hidden gems and endless inconsistencies, despite the trash, bad urban planning, and the dumping of hazardous waste in our seas, rivers, mountains and valleys.

Rami Rizk is one of the greatest aerial photographer in the country, in my opinion, as he was able to capture breathtaking photos from across the country and mesmerize both the Lebanese and foreigners. I would highly consider checking him out on Instagram.

“Of course, my favorite one was a bit biased, but it was taken in my beloved hometown of Ehden, with an almost daily event where the clouds rise up and settle at the foot of the town.” Rami was lucky enough to find a clearing that looked like a heart.



Ehden by Rami Rizk

Sources:

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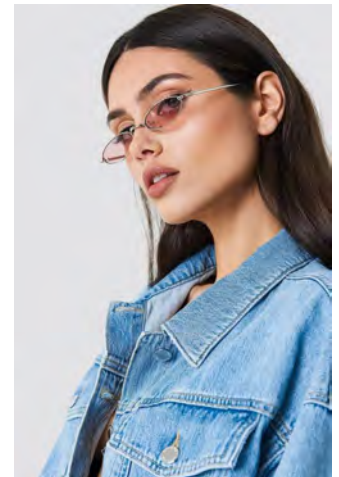
Trends in Fashion

CHLOE LOCA – 10IP

Fashion is one of the most popular forms of expression as it represents a person, their culture, their lifestyle and even their beliefs. The way we dress tells a lot about the kind of people we are and how we wish to present ourselves. Fashion trends are styles of clothing and accessories that become popular at a particular moment in time. There are different types of trends: macro and micro trends.

Micro trends are quite short-lived compared to macro trends. These trends will be excessively hyped and over produced until they eventually fade within a few months' time to a couple years. Some examples of micro trends are small oval sunglasses, chunky sneakers or an all-black fit. As some of these styles are still worn today, they will eventually be replaced with other up-to-date and trendier styles as we progress this year.

Macro trends have a much longer life span of approximately 5 to 10 years. These trends are more guided by lifestyle and demographical changes. A popular macro trend at the moment is sustainable clothing items. Popular stores like H&M, Zara and more are taking a turn for the better when it comes to eco-friendly materials and resources.



Now, the question arises on how these styling choices become “trendy” and what that means for the current fashion. To clearly see a shift in fashion trends, we can start with an earlier period of time.



During the royal era of queens and kings, fashion was an expression of class and power. The clothes a person wore could distinctly represent where they were placed on a social hierarchy. An obvious separation between royals and peasants was their attire.

Moving on to sooner yet still formal times, the early 20th century held many accounts of complimentary lifestyle and fashion shifts:

After World War I and the horrors that came with it, there was a general relaxation of rules during the Roaring Twenties. More modest clothing was replaced with much more chic styles such as the flapper look. Dresses became shorter, flashier and much looser to make movement easy. Men's suit jackets were shorter, and trousers got wider. Hats were used as a way to tell a man's social class – upper classmen would wear top hats, middle class would wear fedoras and lower class wore standard newsboy hats, all a much toned-down version of the historic social hierarchy dress wear.



The Great Depression in the 30's was a severe global economic crash. Because of this, people had to make-do with less. Feedsack dresses were made from the bags the animal feed came in. Clothing became much more casual and less extravagant than the previous decade.

A shortage of materials due to the Second World War during the 40's meant that other fabrics had to be used for people's clothes. Synthetic fabrics and nylon became much more popular and were more frequently used. A style of suit called the "zoot suit" (right picture) was quite popular at the time. However, it was the cause of many riots and was seen as unpatriotic as it consisted of a large jacket and loose flowy pants which went so far against the rations of material given and considered a waste.



After previous years of cinched waists, maxi skirts and flawless hair and makeup, traditions were broken in the 60's in an act of rebellion which closely tied with the current cultural and political shifts of the decade. Celebrities like Jane Birkin (left picture), who carried the boho summer style all the way to the 70's, was one of the many fashion icons of the time. The hippie movement gave way for styles such as long and loose-fitting clothes in natural fabrics and psychedelic prints. This trend carried on throughout the 70's with the carefree disco movement. This also held way for the punk movement which was an aggressive reaction to the political and economic situation of those years.

Continuing into the 80's, gender identity was also tested with women's jackets coming with large shoulder pads to create a higher and larger shoulder look, similar to those of men's jackets. Influence was taken from movies like Flashdance, which introduced dancewear as a more casual daywear, and superstar Madonna popularised layering and large and over-the-top accessories such as: fishnet gloves, giant hair bows, many bangles and big earrings. It also became socially acceptable for women to flaunt their wealth through their jewellery.

The beginning of the 21st century oversaw the development of new technology which heavily increased the speed of trends, as we see nowadays with social media. As of now, styles from each and all decades are still present in our fashion as they are reworked to fit modern tastes. By going through the history of fashion and seeing the trends and circumstances then, it is obvious that fashion is a reflection of the current events of that time. Fashion trends stand complimentary to the society they are made in. On the side note, they are also greatly influenced by popular figures and the entertainment industry.

Poem

AYA ZEIN - 10IP

Our hearts start to race;
Alive, so alive.
My marks I retrace
And then he says 5

What if I mess up the pace,
Or fumble on kicks,
Or move with no grace?
And then he says 6

Can I even do it?
My 10 breaths at 11
Maybe I should just sit,
And then he says 7

My limbs go all numb,
I bet the others relate
Our terms make a sum
And we all shout 8.

We then share at the table
All our feelings of late,
And for as long as I'm able,
I'll do 5,6,7,8