

1930s



1930

The Great Depression begins.



1930s
Ladies' fashion of the era



1938

Pierre-Albert Marquet, *The Blue Boat at Porquerolles*



1932

Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.



1933

Adolf Hitler is appointed German chancellor.



1931

Construction of the ocean liner Normandie, an apogee of Art Deco style, begins.



1936

The Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute opens its doors to its first visitors.

1930 • 1931 • 1932 • 1933 • 1934 • 1935 • 1936 • 1937 • 1938 • 1939



1937

American industrial designer Russel Wright creates one of the most successful dinner services ever produced. The organic forms and soft color pallet help popularize Modern design.

Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



1932

Bell and Howell Cooke introduces the first industrial production of the zoom lens.



Villa Savoye, Poissy

1931

Le Corbusier completes the Villa Savoye in Poissy outside Paris. In this structure, the architect signals the transformation away from Machine Age forms seen in the arts of the 1920s in favor of rectilinear, rationalist forms and more curving, organic elements.

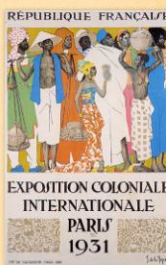


1936

The Popular Front, a political party comes to power in France. It responds to working-class dissatisfaction by advocating paid vacations and the forty-hour work week.

1939

Siemens & Halske produces the first commercial electron microscope.



1931
The Exposition Coloniale in Paris precipitates protest by the Surrealists, who organize a counter-exhibition.



1937

Chester Carlson invents the photocopier.

1935

The Nobel Prize for chemistry is awarded to Frédéric and Irène Joliot-Curie for the synthesis of new radioactive elements.



1931

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1937

Pablo Picasso paints *Guernica*, which dramatizes the bombing of the Basque capital during the Spanish Civil War.



Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*



1937

Jean Renoir, son of the painter Auguste Renoir, directs *The Grand Illusion*. The antiwar film is banned in Germany and Italy.

1930s

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, American composer, pianist and bandleader, gains a national profile with appearances at the Cotton Club in Harlem. In 1933 and 1934, the orchestra tours Europe to great acclaim. Some of the legendary compositions from this time are "Mood Indigo" (1930), "It Don't Mean a Thing (If it Ain't Got That Swing)" (1931), "Sophisticated Lady" (1933), and "In a Sentimental Mood" (1935).



1943

Casablanca wins the Academy Award for Best Picture.



1941

The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, which leads to the United States' entry into World War II.



1945 Marc Chagall, *Dreamer*



Peggy Guggenheim in her Gallery Art of This Century

1942

Peggy Guggenheim opens the gallery Art of This Century in New York. Architect Frederick Kiesler designed the interiors that were intended to complement the Surrealist and abstract art on display.

1940 • 1941 • 1942 • 1943 • 1944 • 1945 • 1946 • 1947 • 1948 • 1949

1945

Painter Jean Dubuffet begins to collect what he calls "Art Brut" (Raw Art), also called "Outsider Art." These works are characterized as "primitive" or "naive" and are produced by untrained non-professionals.

Jean Dubuffet, *Grand Maître of the Outsider*, 1947



1944

The dance *Appalachian Spring*, choreographed by Martha Graham, premieres in New York.



Martha Graham performing in *Appalachian Spring*, 1944

1942-1945

The Holocaust takes place. The Germans close their borders and turn concentration camps into death camps, systematically killing Jews, Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, political opponents, the mentally and physically disabled, and others the Nazis consider "impure."



1944

Allied forces land on the Normandy beaches on D-Day and Paris and Rome are liberated from their German occupiers. Charles de Gaulle becomes head of the provisional government in France.



1947

India gains its independence from British rule, and Pakistan comes into existence. Pakistan becomes home to Indian Muslims while Hinduism remains the major religion in India.



1949

Simone de Beauvoir publishes *The Second Sex*. The book will become a classic text of the feminist movement.



1948

Architect Philip Johnson builds his "glass house" in New Canaan, Connecticut. The house reduces the elements of building to its essentials - a horizontal slab on the ground, vertical supports, and a flat roof. A transparent glass wall wraps around the house and opens it to the rural site.



1945

The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



1949

Jackson Pollock paints *Number 2, 1949*. Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute purchases the painting in 1954.



1940s



1940s
Ladies' fashion of the era

Model wearing an example of a wartime "austerity" garment. Certain design details are forbidden as they are considered a waste of valuable raw materials that are better used for the war effort.



1940
World War II rages. Italy declares war on Britain and France. German troops enter Paris and begin their occupation.



1945
The Nuremberg Trials begin. The Allied forces hold the tribunals after World War II for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military and economic leadership of Nazi Germany.



Former Nazi leader Hermann Goering standing in the guarded prisoner's box during the Nuremberg trials.



1947

Ava Gardner models couturier Christian Dior's "New Look" in women's clothes. Paris again takes on international preeminence as a center of fashion.

1947

Henri Matisse publishes *Jazz*, an album of paper cut-out compositions. The cut-out technique will become his primary medium in the last years of his life.

