

THE HUMANITIES: Culture, Continuity, and Change

Chapter 7 – WITHOUT BOUNDARIES: Multiple Meanings in a Postmodern World

With what activity was “postmodern” first associated?

What was a hallmark of postmodern architecture? What is Prague’s “Dancing House” meant to evoke?

Who wrote the “Gentle Manifesto”? How does it define the postmodern aesthetic? What city became the model for this new architectural aesthetic? Why?

What does the textbook mean by the “modern nomad”? How does “technology designed for movement” contribute to this mindset? What is the architects’ “responsibility”?

What materials did Frank Gehry use to surround his house? Why? How is his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain considered postmodernist?

What was the inspiration for Santiago Calatrava’s design for the Port Authority Trans Hudson station?

How does a building earn the distinction of being green? How does Renzo Piano’s Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center in New Caledonia qualify as “green architecture”? Beijing’s Olympic Stadium?

Why was Zhang Hongtu’s painting *Bird’s Nest, in the Style of Cubism* deemed unfit for the Olympic Games?

What is structuralism? Semiotics? How does this connect to the theoretical principles of postmodern thought? Define “deconstruction”. How is it typical of postmodernism?

With what new theory is Benoit Mandelbrot associated? Why did he disdain Euclidian geometry?

What is the source of the *butterfly effect*? How has chaos theory been applied in medical research?

Which artist moves between abstraction and photography-based representational painting?

What element does Jean-Michel Basquiat include in his work to honor African-American heroes?

How does the postmodern literary hero differ from his or her predecessors? According to the text’s working definition of postmodern fiction, what does the writing defeat? How is Pynchon’s *V.* an example?

How does postmodern poetry like David Antin’s “If We Get It” accomplish plurality of meaning?

Why did William S. Burroughs believe “Language is a virus”?

How did Zhang Huan try to raise Beijing officials’ consciousness about the poor? How does Chris Ofili’s *The Holy Virgin Mary* reflect his African heritage? What play exposed injustices against Latinos?

What national monument is considered a desecration of a site sacred to Native Americans? What is the real subject of David P. Bradley’s painting *Indian Country Today*?

Who is Shirin Neshat? What style of art is she best known for? What themes does it deal with?

What does the ghost represent in Eleanor Antin’s video *Minetta Lane—A Ghost Story*?

What does the horizon line on which Janine Antoni appears to be walking in *Touch* represent?