

An Age of Uncertainty

- Europe After the War
- Art in an Age of Uncertainty
- The U.S. After the War



A. Europe After the War

- The rule of old monarchies/empires had come to an end
 - Russia
 - Germany
 - Austria-Hungary
- New and changing governments created insecurities about the future
- All countries were almost bankrupt following the war
- Recovery from the war was hard

- The Post World War I era became known as:

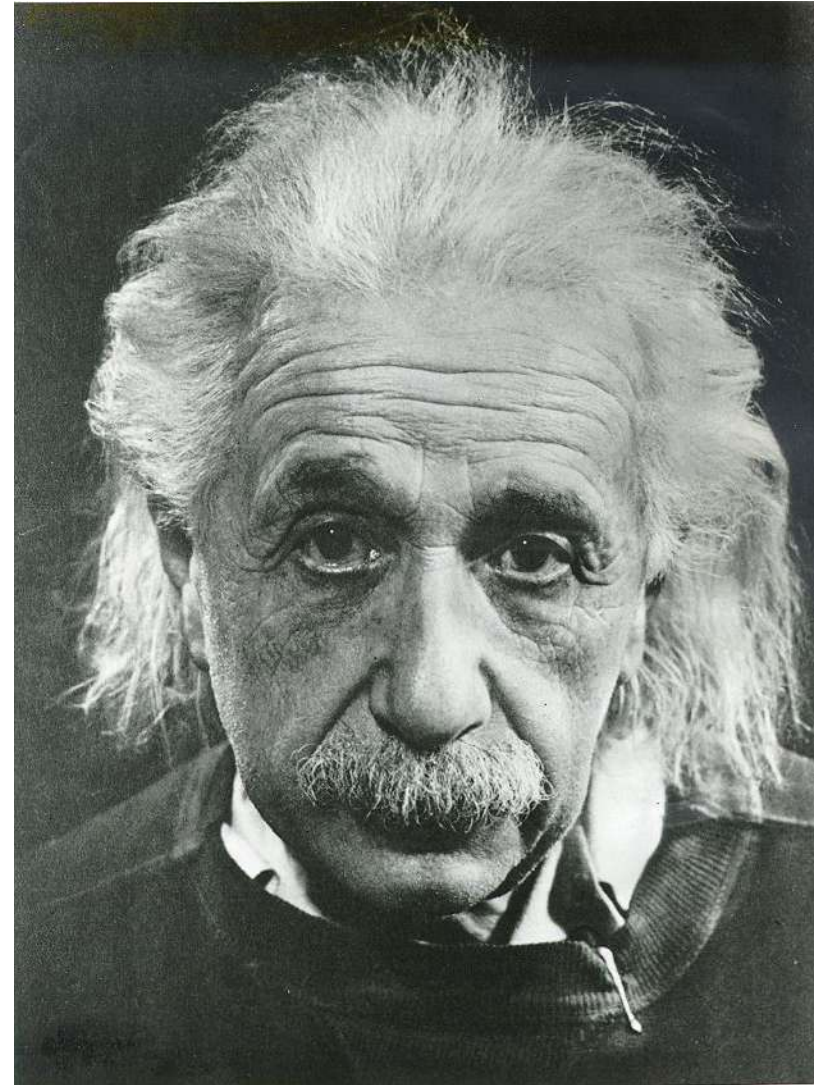
- An Age of Uncertainty
- An Age of Disillusionment
- An Age of New Ideas

because the world was seen as being unpredictable and unsafe

- Many people began to fear what the future would bring



- Traditional scientific theories where the world was explainable were no longer trusted.
- Albert Einstein – *Theory of Relativity*
- Nothing in the world is constant except for the speed of light.



B. Art in an Age of Uncertainty

- Writers were disillusioned with reason and progress
- Artists rejected traditional ideas
- 3 New art movements emerged

• Cubism

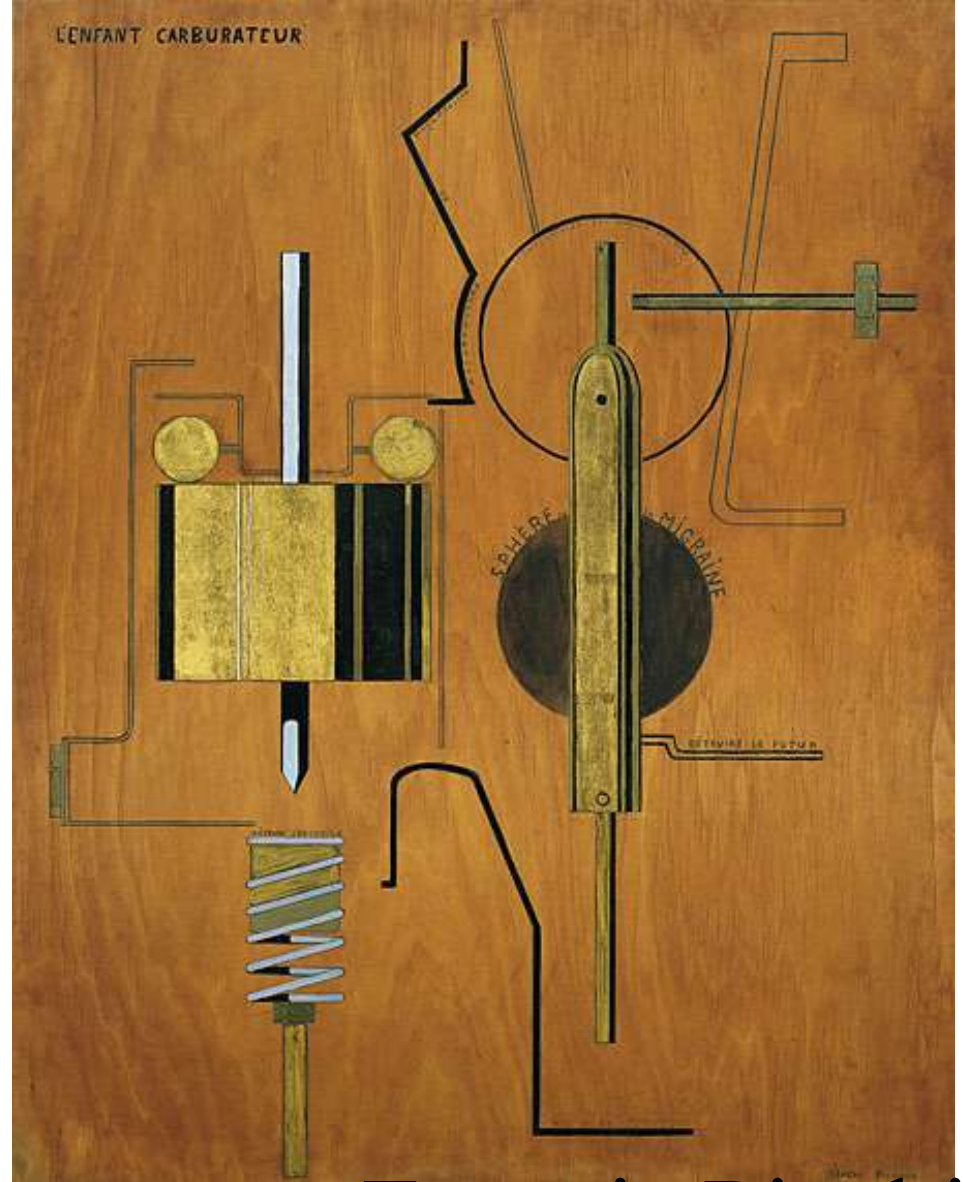
- Natural shapes changed into geometric forms.
- Objects were broken down into different parts with sharp angles and edges



Pablo Picasso
Three Musicians

2. Dadaism

- Artwork was meant to be absurd, nonsensical, & meaningless.
- Established customs had been made meaningless by the war.



Francis Picabia

The Child Carburetor

3.Surrealism

Beyond or Above Reality

- Sought to link the world of dreams with real life where objects were represented in an unrealistic way
- Artists tried to call on the unconscious part of the mind.

Salvador Dali

Swans Reflecting Elephants



C. The U.S. After the War

- No Age of Uncertainty
- Not affected the same way as Europe by WWI
- Jazz Age – Many Americans began to celebrate life in the 1920's



- Some Americans were affected by the Age of Uncertainty
- Gertrude Stein called Americans who were disillusioned the “Lost Generation”
- Writers Ernest Hemingway & F. Scott Fitzgerald were members

