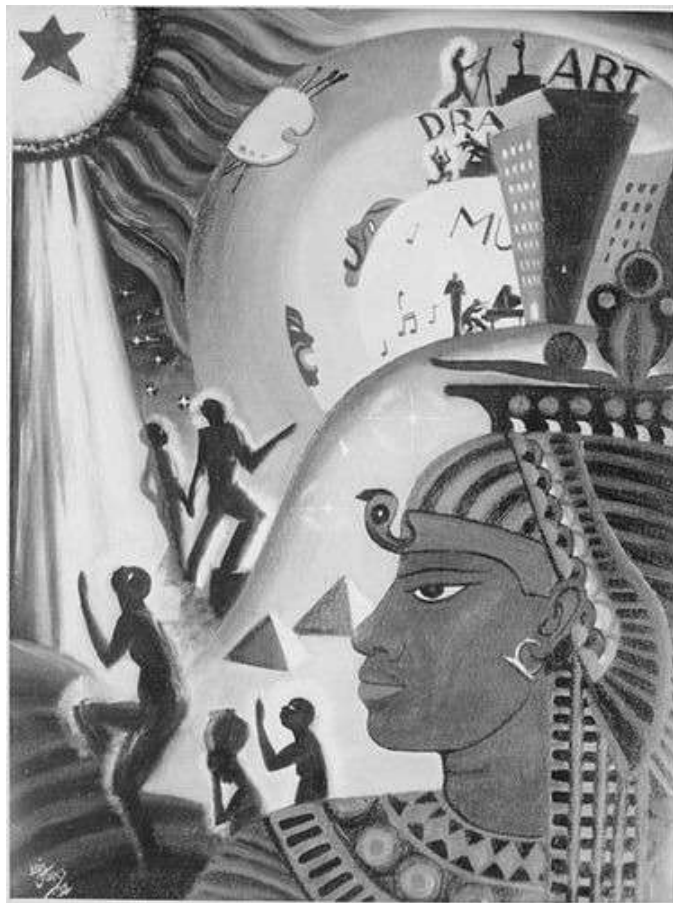


Visual Art

by ReadWorks



"Ascent of Ethiopia" (1932), Painting by Lois Mailou Jones

During the Harlem Renaissance, visual artists used artistic styles developed in Africa, such as African folk art, as creative inspiration. Ancient Egyptian art was especially influential. Artists often used imagery and iconography associated with this period. For example, mummies appeared in multiple artistic works during this movement.



Photo Credit: Sharon Mollerus, CC-BY 2.0

Aspiration (1936), Painting by Aaron Douglas

The most famous American artist was painter Aaron Douglas. Like the Egyptians, he painted geometric and two-dimensional profiles of human figures. His art also typically reflected a strong sense of religious belief. Another notable artist was sculptor Selma Burke. Her sculpture of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt became very famous and was later used to model his image on the dime.



Photo Credit: Peter A. Juley & Son, Smithsonian Institution

Photograph of Selma Burke in her studio

As a testament to how widespread the Harlem Renaissance was, most painters and sculptors did not live in New York. They lived in Paris! Ideas were still communicated across borders, however. Most artists showed their works in traveling exhibitions, which meant that American visual artists probably had the opportunity to see a few exhibitions of their Parisian peers. There were also international art contests that facilitated dialogue between artists from all over the globe.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What was the Harlem Renaissance?

- A. An Ancient Egyptian visual art form that featured mummies.
- B. An art movement that began in New York and expanded internationally.
- C. A famous American painter that painted about racial pride.
- D. An international art contest that artists could attend from around the world.

2. What does this text describe?

- A. This text describes the life of Aaron Douglas and how most of his art was influenced by Ancient Egyptian geometric and two-dimensional human profiles.
- B. This text describes the beginning of the Harlem Renaissance and how it stemmed from a new black cultural identity.
- C. This text describes the way Selma Burke sculpted President Franklin Delano and the difficulties she encountered during the process.
- D. This text describes the creative inspiration of the Harlem Renaissance, some famous artists from this time, and the worldwide impact of this movement.

3. The Harlem Renaissance was extremely widespread. What evidence in the text supports this conclusion?

- A. "The most famous American artist was painter Aaron Douglas."
- B. "During the Harlem Renaissance, visual artists used artistic styles developed in Africa, such as African folk art, as creative inspiration."
- C. "There were also international art contests that facilitated dialogue between artists from all over the globe."
- D. "Mummies appeared in multiple artistic works during this movement."

4. Based on the text, what can be concluded about the Harlem Renaissance?

- A. People from all over the world knew about the Harlem Renaissance.
- B. Only Americans knew about the Harlem Renaissance.
- C. Famous art was not created during the Harlem Renaissance.
- D. Artists did not communicate with each other during the Harlem Renaissance.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. The Harlem Renaissance's most famous American artist painter, Aaron Douglas, painted geometric and two-dimensional profiles of human figures.
- B. There were many international art contests during the Harlem Renaissance that helped facilitate dialogue between artists from all over the globe.
- C. The Harlem Renaissance, inspired by African folk and Ancient Egyptian art, was a widespread artistic movement that reached many parts of the world.
- D. During the Harlem Renaissance, many mummies and other Ancient Egyptian imagery appeared in artists' work.