



Albrecht Dürer

DESIGNER'S FULL NAME: Albrecht Dürer

DESIGNER'S PSEUDONYM/NICKNAME: None

GENDER: Male

YEAR BORN: May 21, 1471

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER BORN: Nuremberg, Germany

YEAR DIED: 1528

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER DIED: Nuremberg, Germany

RACE | ETHNICITY | RELIGION | POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE AFFECTED EITHER THE ARTIST'S LIFE EXPERIENCE OR WORK BECAUSE IT/THEY PROVIDED A CHALLENGE AT THE TIME, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Though his gender and ethnicity did not affect his experiences, where Dürer was born did. He was born in Nuremberg, a hub for humanism. Humanism dealt with a sensitivity to people and looked away from possible deities. Rational thinking was prized and turned from societal conditioning. This allowed Dürer to be more artistically and theoretically inclined which greatly affected and influenced his work.⁴

DID THIS DESIGNER DO NOTABLE WORK IN FIELDS OTHER THAN WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED GRAPHIC DESIGN TODAY? EXPLAIN.

Dürer was considered a mathematician which lends itself well to design work. Being a mathematician would allow him to create formulas and look at art in a very technical way. He would calculate ratios and the distance between certain points in a work.³

LIST AT LEAST ONE OTHER WORK THAT IS NOT NAMED IN THIS TIMELINE FOR WHICH THIS DESIGNER IS WELL KNOWN. IF WORK CO-CREATED, LIST THE OTHERS INVOLVED.

Another work of Dürer's was a series of portraits called "Self-Portrait."

EXPLAIN IF THIS FAME IS ONLY WITHIN DESIGN CIRCLES OR ANY OTHER SUBSET OF THE POPULATION.

This work by Dürer was considered a bit scandalous since it is unknown whether or not he wanted to depict himself as Christ. Since the similarities were uncanny, many religious people thought he was a sinner for making himself look so much like the Holy Father.

DOES THIS WORK EXEMPLIFY ASPECTS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS QUESTIONS?

Since humanism was on the rise, it could be said Dürer regards man as the superior being, so by making himself Christ, he is saying he is in charge of what happens with his morals and decisions. However, he could have simply been influenced by a pose in Italy and he ends up looking too similar to God with his long hair and hand gesture.¹

FOR WHAT IS THIS DESIGNER MOST NOTED? EXPLAIN.

Dürer is most noted for focusing on the theoretical side of art, coupled with humanist beliefs. He thought very mathematical about his executions and wants art to be proportional. He embodies the Renaissance man with everything he learned and was good at.⁴

IS THERE ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT THIS DESIGNER? EXPLAIN.

Duhrer created a self-portrait entitled Self-Portrait where he is in full-frontal pose. Besides his eyes looking directly at the viewer, it debated whether or not he was trying to portray himself as an imitation or an actual portrait of God. Christ, during this time, was the only person painted head-on, but Duhrer also painted his hand over his chest in must the same way Christ was to give a blessing. Inscribed on the piece are the words, "I, Albrecht Duhrer of Nuremburg, portrayed myself in everlasting colors ages twenty-eight years." Many think it is simply Duhrer immortalizing as the image being both by and of Duhrer.¹

WHAT MATERIALS WERE MOST OFTEN USED BY THIS DESIGNER IN THE CREATION AND PRODUCTION OF WORK?

Duhrer worked in watercolor, gouache, copper plates, woodcuts, and oil paint.⁴

EXPLAIN THIS DESIGNER'S EDUCATION/TRAINING, INCLUDING ACADEMIC, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND /OR MENTORSHIPS.

Duhrer began as a goldsmith in his father's workshop. In 1486 he became an apprentice to painter Michael Wolgemut. He eventually left Nuremburg and went on to Venice where he became acquainted with Gentile, Giovanni Bellini, and Jacopo de' Barbari and gained a lifelong interest in human proportions.^{2,4}

DID THIS DESIGNER PROMOTE A SPECIFIC IDEOLOGY IN HIS/HER WORK? EXPLAIN.

Duhrer often mixed mathematics and art together. He wrote four book titled, "Four Books of Human Proportion," which dealt with the proportions of each part of the body, and began with geometric theory. This can be further seen with how he studied theoretical writings from the Italian Renaissance.⁴

WHY IS THIS DESIGNER VIEWED AS ICONIC IN THE HISTORY OF GRAPHIC DESIGN?

Duhrer is iconic, not only for his talent, ambition, and intellect, but his ability to meld theory, mathematics, and art together. He was the first Northern European artist to think scientifically about perspective and was fortunate to live in Nuremburg, a center for humanism, and one of the first places to exercise principles of the Reformation.²

IS THERE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DESIGNER?

Due to the plague repeatedly breaking out in Nuremburg, it forced Duhrer to leave and go to Italy where he was submerged in the culture. There, he learned many important techniques and information which influenced his work. It served as a huge inspiration and influence for him.²

YOUR NAME: Calley Dunning

GIVE YOUR EDUCATED OPINION OF THIS DESIGNER AND HIS/HER WORK. ALSO EXPLAIN WHAT INFLUENCE, IF ANY, THIS WORK HAS HAD ON YOUR OWN. A LACK OF INFLUENCE MUST BE EXPLAINED.

Albrecht Duhrer was undoubtedly an experimentalist and was unafraid to mix his manyfields of interest to his advantage. His interest in theory greatly aided his mathematics, which in turn made him a very technical artist. With his technical approach to

art, he was able to establish guides and references for topics such as perspective as well as proportion.² Having a guide to these two aspects of art allow for a more accurate interpretation and replication. He went to create books describing these concepts, influencing future artists.

Duhrer also a the well-studied and traveled artist. He moved back and forth from Italy frequently and was not afraid to soak up inspiration from artists of the past.⁴ He was always trying to advance his craft and explore new ideas. New materials and techniques served him well as he was constantly experimenting with different materials to create art. Most of his work deals with human forms of animals.

Besides being a super skilled artist of many talents, Duhrer was the embodiment of a humanist.⁴ Humanists approach life rationally and always seek the meaning to a specific reason. They believe humans are at fault for their own morals and pursuits. This lead many to seek out reason and bigger ideas, much like Duhrer. He probably had a great hand in spreading humanist ideals as well as bringing home knowledge and influence from the Italian works he had seen.

Personally, I feel as if Duhrer should serve as an influence to many artists. Maybe his influence is not apparent on the surface, but people can definitely be indirectly inspired by his ideals and interest with topics outside of art. He loved travelling for inspiration and being inspired by anything and everything around him. He also enjoyed many kinds of varying media in order to create a wide body of work while still maintaining a style unique to him. Duhrer also made it a point to combine all aspects of his life into his work. He was very intelligent, as well as technical, giving his work a very meticulous approach. This proves art and science, and math is intertwined and that there is more than one way to create a piece of art.

Due to his need to seek out works of inspiration, it can be said Duhrer set an example for artists to keep searching for meaning and new ways of thinking about art. It was also because of Duhrer many ideas moved around. Because of his frequent travels, he was able to tell stories of different places through their affect on his work. Ideas were also passed to where he was visiting, so in a way, it was an information trade. He was able to pass on ideas, which inspired someone else and caused them to ask questions, and the cycle continues. Duhrer was a piece in the puzzle to getting to where society is today with art, and that can not be taken for granted. Ideas need to constantly be swapped and people need to continue to be inspired by them in order for art to go the next step.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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