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CSCI 101

Connecting with Computer Science

Digital Art I



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2020 Fall Semester (S3)

Overview

- Focus: Digital Art
- Readings: R11, R12
- Core Ideas:
 1. What is Art? History
 2. Mechanically Reproductive Art
 3. Digital Art, the advancements that it brings

What is Art?

What is Art?

- Middle English: via Old French from Latin ars, art-.¹
- The way it is done.
 - product of human creativity
 - a skill

What is Art?

Liberalism

Public Art

Motion Picture

Aesthetic

Creativity

Individualism

Expression

Realism

Deconstruction

Russian Formalism

French New Wave

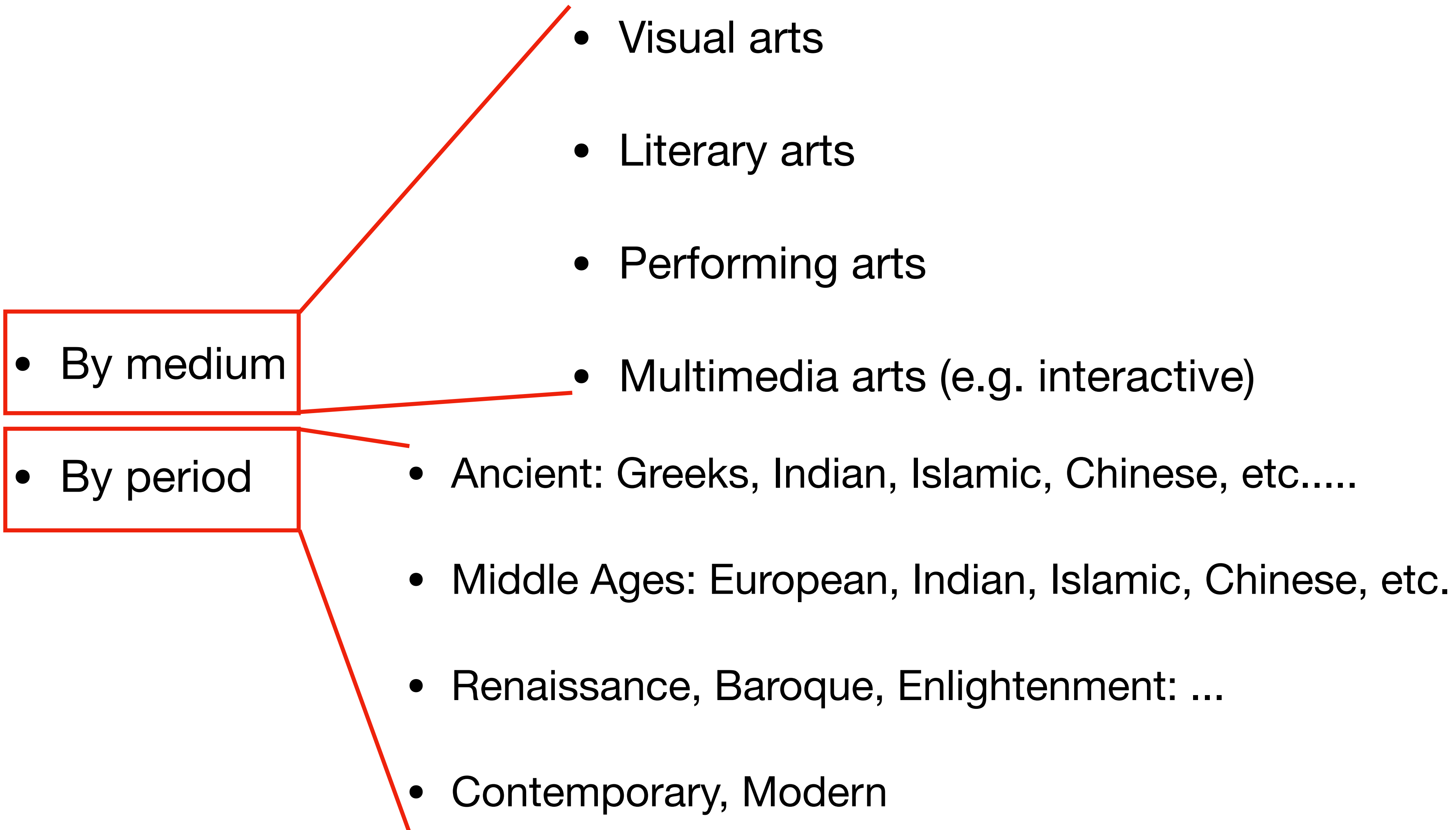
Classicism

Fine Art

Commercialisation

Performing Art

How do we classify art?



Art Forms

- Every Period, Every Region on Earth has its distinct general "trends", even nowadays
- Globalism: proudly brought forth by commerce and technology, art has enjoyed much more freedom like never before

Visual Art



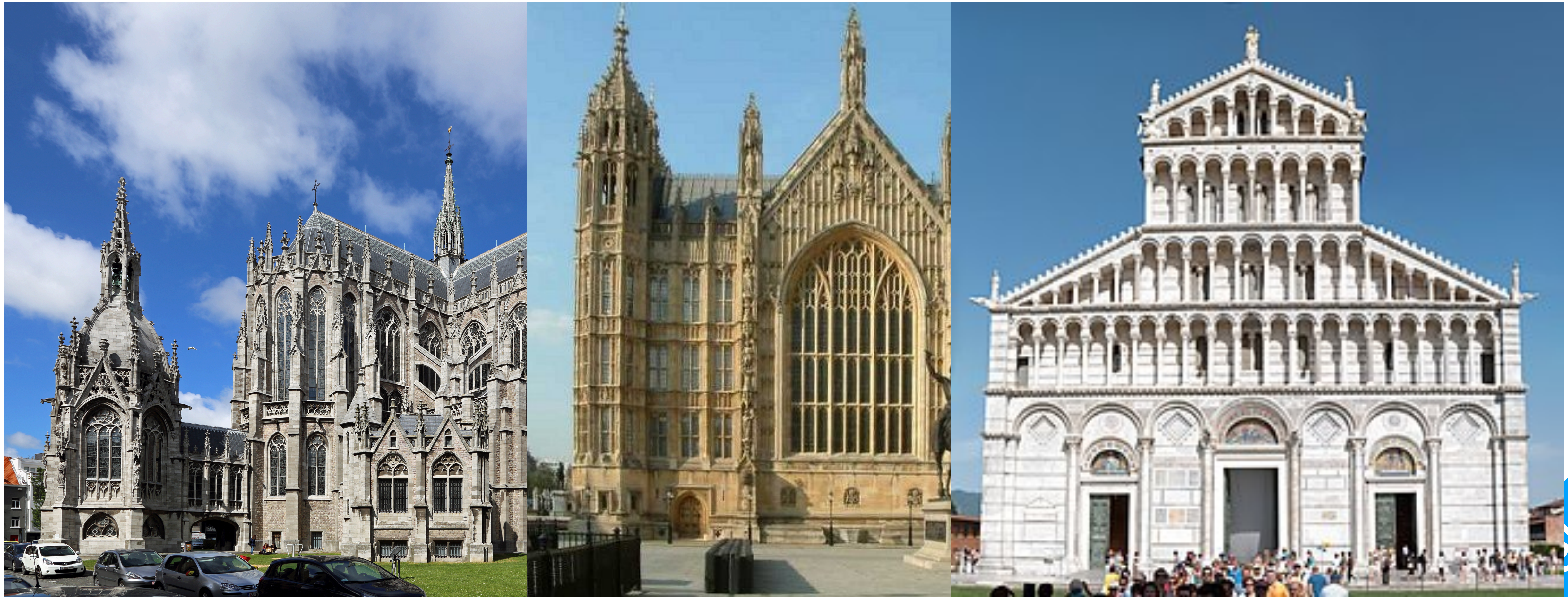
- Handcrafted with distinct period characteristics vs Modern Unique designs

Visual Art



Technical

Visual Art



Visual Art

- All of these buildings took decades to build, by hand (duh)
- This church was built as a Gothic architectural design from the Late Middle Ages, construction took ~400 years (15th century-19 century)
- **Before the ages of mechanical reproduction, there are a LOT of similarities in design**



Technical

Visual Art



1. Caspar David Friedrich, 1818. *Der Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer* (Wanderer above the Sea of Fog)
2. Francesco Hayez, 1859. *Le Baiser* (The Kiss)
3. Eugène Delacroix, 1830. *La Liberté guidant le peuple* (Liberty Leading the People)
4. Théodore Géricault, 1819. *Scène de Naufrage* (The Raft of the Medusa)

What makes a piece of art valuable?

- Uniqueness
- Rarity
- Aesthetics
- Others

Aesthetics

- Aesthetics is a matter of personal preference
 - But! Certain aesthetics are accepted to be of greater value (why?)
- The artists' techniques are unique/rare
- The technology for producing the artwork might be unique/rare
- Imperfection
 - "The straight line belongs to men, the curved one to God"¹
 - Humanly perfect: straight lines
 - Godly perfect: curves



Fan Ho



Max Foster

Rarity

- "A Great Artist is Dead"¹
Your work will only go up in value when you are dead.

- Vincent van Gogh

- Vivian Maier

Why? Because there will be no more!

- Franz Kafka

- Edgar Allan Poe

- Gregor Johann Mendel (who is a scientist).....

Uniqueness

- Techniques are (relatively) finite, but applications and outcomes are endless
- Uniqueness of Art
 - Each artwork is non-reproducible, part of the value is also in its uniqueness
 - Each artwork WILL change in the course of history
→ restorations will change the artwork
 - Art is expensive!
- Ownership is exclusive, reproduction is NOT possible

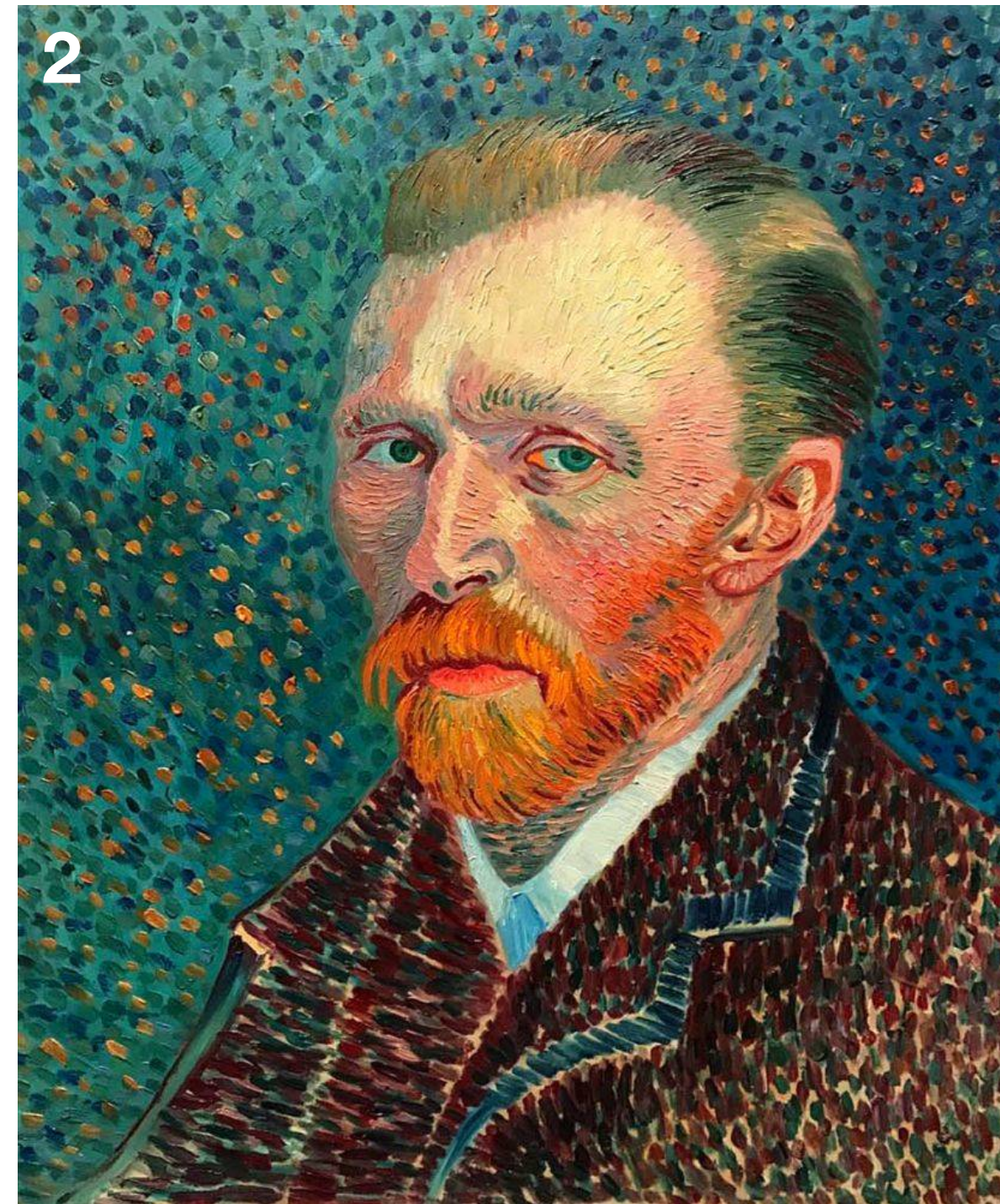
Mechanically Reproducible Art

Mechanically Reproducible Art

- **Walter Benjamin** (1892 - 1940)
The Task of the Translator
The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction
- Art before Mass Productions
- **Aura:** found in art that contains presence
→ apprehension of time and space
→ cannot be reproduced



Aura



1. Corbis, 1800. Napoleon Crossing the Saint-Bernard Pass
2. van Gogh. Self Portrait
3. Mona Lisa. Da Vinci

Aura



- Aura is the soul of the artist, in the moment where he/she is at work with the subject



1. Rober Cornelius
2. Cathrine Draper
3. Félix Nadar

Uniqueness

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The Debate

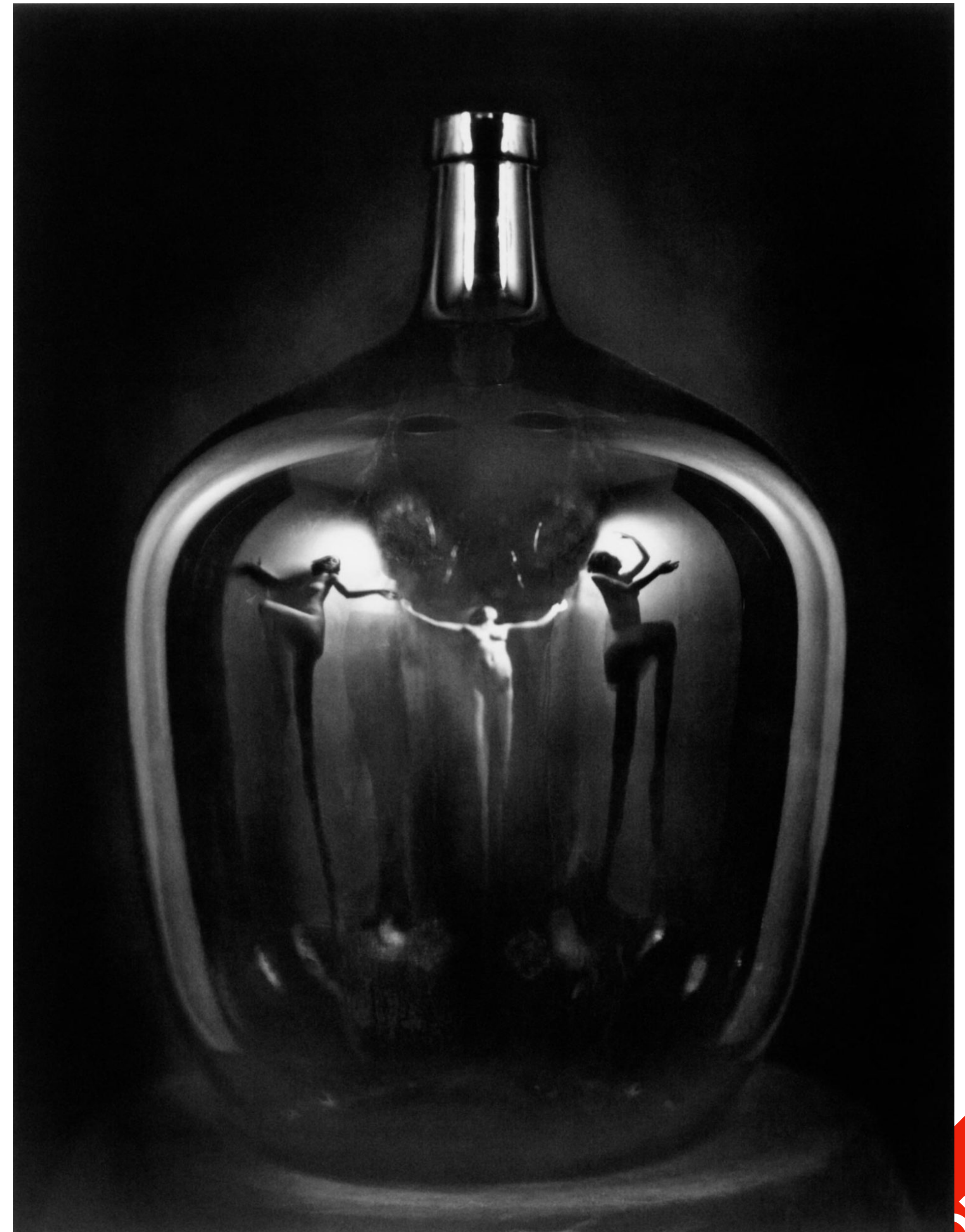
- Mechanical Technology allows for
 - Endless reproduction
 - Simplified creation process
 - More creative options
- Mechanical Technology Reduces
 - Material wealth required
 - Complex skillsets of the artists
 - Barrier for Art

The Digital Revolution

Even More Radical Changes to Art

Summary

Digital



1. Analogue: Karsh. Queen Elizabeth; Elixir

Concept

Digital



1. Digital: Annie Leibovitz

Concept

What Makes Digital Different?

- More convenient
- More creative freedom
- Less time consuming and sophisticated
- Endless copies, at no cost!
- Extremely easy distribution



Concept

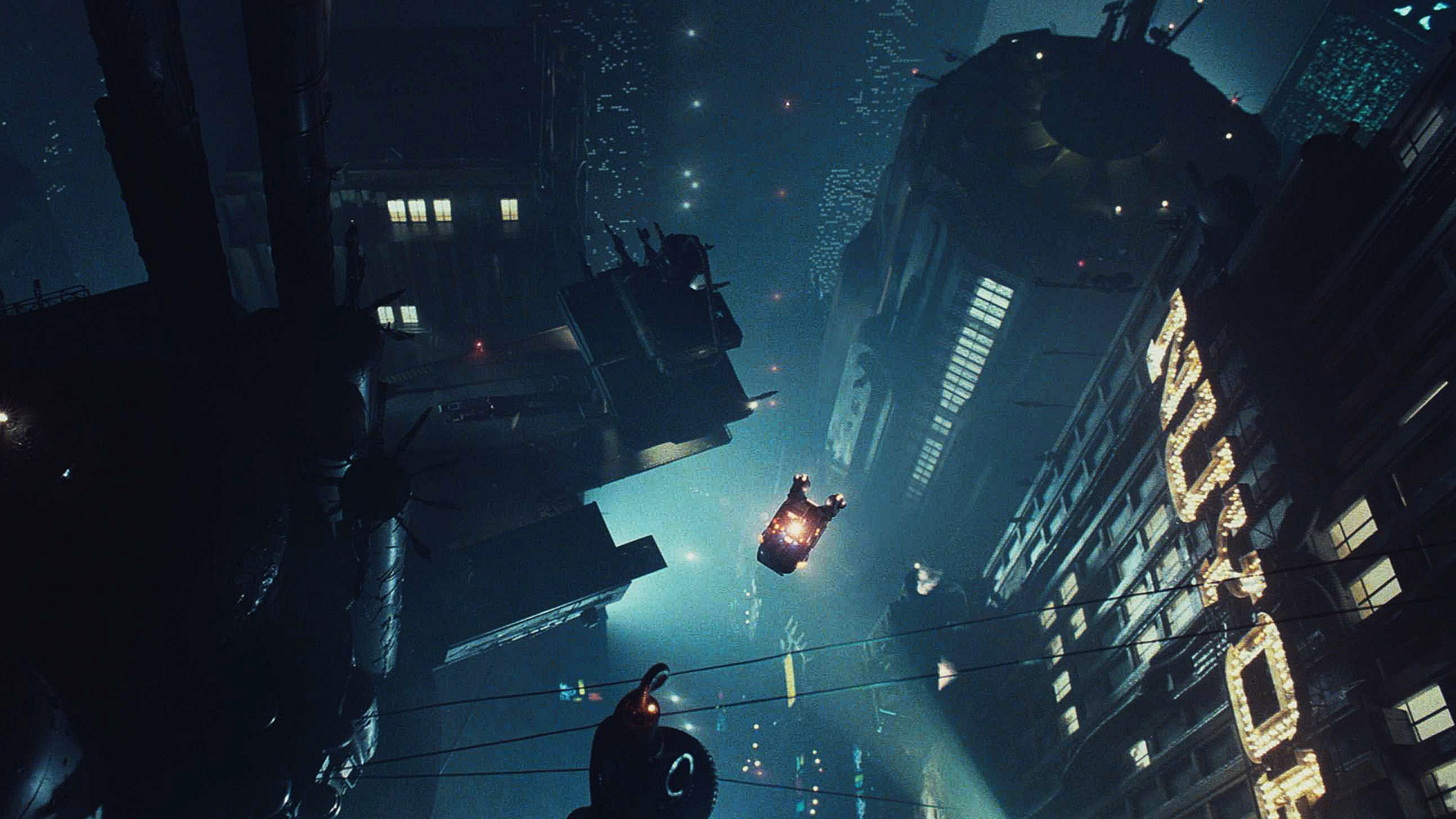
What Makes Digital Different?

- Allows for creations never before possible



WORLD
WARCRAFT
CLASSIC







What else?

- Digital allows for previously impossible almost perfect shapes
- How does the aesthetics of the general public change?
- Broadening imagination: would you like to create a completely new world?

Discuss

What else?

- Barrier for art creation has lowered
 - Anyone can create art
- Is it harder to create recognisable art?
- Will there be a future for VR art? How different will it be?
- What is the roll for AI in a digital age of art?

Discuss

What else?

- What about Aura?
 - The spirit of the artists?
 - The soul of the subject?
 - In that space and time?

Discuss