

How might these events have affected the moods and attitudes of the residents of the US, the Southwest, and Colorado Springs?
How are they reflected in the art in this gallery?

MANIFEST DESTINY: a phrase coined in **1845**, expressed the philosophy that drove 19th-century U.S. territorial expansion. Manifest Destiny held that the United States was destined—by God, its advocates believed—to expand its dominion and spread democracy and capitalism across the entire North American continent.

<https://www.history.com>

UTE RESERVATION: Prior to U.S. expansion the Ute peoples occupied most of Colorado. Ute leaders from all seven bands sign the Treaty of **1868**, creating a protected reservation covering 20 million acres in western Colorado. The remainder of Colorado (including important hunting grounds in North, Middle, and South Park and the Yampa and San Luis Valleys) was ceded to the United States. As US expansion continued, the original 20 million acres was reduced to 1 million (as it is today) by a series of land grabs by the US government.

<http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/utes/>

PIKE'S PEAK GOLD RUSH: 1890s – 1920 (peaked in 1900) The Colorado Gold Rush is often referred to as the “Pikes Peak Gold Rush.” Although there was some prospecting around Pikes Peak in **1858–59**, major gold mining near the mountain did not begin until the **1890s** with the Cripple Creek strike. But as the easternmost of Colorado's Fourteeners, the appearance of Pikes Peak on the western horizon served as an encouraging signpost for weary westward immigrants in 1859, and the mountain came to represent the rush to the Rockies more generally; its name was emblazoned on wagons and mentioned in newspaper reports about the rush. The settlement of (Old) Colorado City was established at the base of Pikes Peak to supply materials to gold camps in South Park.

<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org>

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WWI (1914 – 1918): WWI began **in Europe in 1914**. The US maintained neutrality in WWI until German U-Boat Submarines began attacking passenger and trade vessels carrying US citizens. This and a telegram, indicating that Germany was attempting to secure Mexico as an ally, compelled Congress to declare war on Germany on August 6th **1917**. In early 1917, the U.S. Army had just 133,000 members. The draft was reinstated and led to some 2.8 million men being inducted into the U.S. military by the end of the Great War. Around 2 million more Americans voluntarily served in the armed forces during the conflict. In October 1917, the first American soldiers entered combat, in France. When the war concluded in November 1918, more than 2 million U.S. troops had served at the Western Front in Europe, and more than 50,000 of them died. <https://www.history.com>

DENVER ARMORY SHOW: A landmark exhibition held in April **1919** at the Denver Public Library occasioned a spirited debate in the local press about the merits of realism versus impressionism (and other modern European art movements). Officially called the Twenty-fifth Annual Exhibition of the Denver Art Association, dubbed the “Denver Armory Show”, a reference to the **1913** New York Armory Show that shocked America with the introduction of modern European art. <http://www.kirklandmuseum.org>

PROHIBITION: Prohibition reflected a belief that outlawing alcohol would lead to lower crime, better health, higher morality and a better environment for young people. But the temperance movement also had a dark, if not sinister, side. Prohibitionists often associated alcohol with anyone who looked, spoke, or acted “foreign.” Their fear of foreigners and “foreign ways” led many to vote for both statewide and National Prohibition.

IN COLORADO: For the first 61 years of Colorado Springs' existence, it was illegal to sell alcohol, due to the Quaker beliefs of city founder Gen. William Jackson Palmer. Eventually, the national mood caught up with Colorado Springs. The **state banned alcohol in 1916** and the country followed suit four years later, putting the business in the hands of the gangsters and bootleggers. When Palmer founded **Colorado Springs in 1872**, not all the inhabitants shared his vision for a sober and genteel community. Local prohibition was as ignored as **national prohibition 50 years later in 1919**. <https://gazette.com>

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WOMENS' SUFFRAGE IN COLORADO: Unlike winning the right to vote through legislative action--as happened in the territories of Wyoming in 1869 and Utah in 1870--Colorado suffragists needed the support of male voters to secure the franchise. They had to convince a majority of men in the state, not just legislators--a smaller and often more elite group of men--that they should share political power with women. Sixteen years earlier, in 1877, when the question of woman suffrage was first put before Colorado voters, they had failed to give women the right to vote. In fact, of 480 campaigns to put votes for women on the ballot of various states in the nineteenth century, only seventeen actually reached the ballot, and a mere two, **in Colorado in 1893** and Idaho in 1896, met with success. The victory that western women were "wild with joy over" made Colorado the first state to enfranchise women through popular referendum, and it happened over a quarter of a century before the achievement of **national women's suffrage in 1920**. <http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/intro.htm>

THE GREAT DEPRESSION: The Great Depression was the worst economic downturn in the history of the industrialized world, **lasting from 1929 to 1939**. It began after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street into a panic and wiped out millions of investors. Over the next several years, consumer spending and investment dropped, causing steep declines in industrial output and employment as failing companies laid off workers. By 1933, when the Great Depression reached its lowest point, some 15 million Americans were unemployed and nearly half the country's banks had failed. In 1932, with the country mired in the depths of the Great Depression and some 15 million people (more than 20 percent of the U.S. population at the time) unemployed, Franklin D. Roosevelt won an overwhelming victory in the presidential election. Among the programs and institutions of FDR's New Deal which aided in recovery from the Great Depression, was the **Works Progress Administration (WPA), a permanent jobs program that employed 8.5 million people from 1935 to 1943**. Federal One comprised a small part of WPA expenditures. Roughly \$27 million of the nearly \$5 billion that had been earmarked for WPA work programs went to the arts. The WPA arts programs led to the later creation of the National Foundation of the Arts. At its height, Federal One employed 5,300 visual artists and related professionals in the Federal Arts Project. Some of them later became world-renowned.

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WWII: (In Europe: 1939-1945) On December 7, **1941**, the U.S. was thrust into World War II when Japan launched a surprise attack on the American naval fleet at Pearl Harbor. The following day, America and Great Britain declared war on Japan. On December 10, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. A draft was instituted in 1942. Everyday life across the country was dramatically altered. Food, gas and clothing were rationed. Communities conducted scrap metal drives. To help build the armaments necessary to win the war, women found employment as electricians, welders and riveters in defense plants. Japanese Americans had their rights as citizens stripped from them (In Colorado US citizens of Japanese race were sent to Amache). People in the U.S. grew increasingly dependent on radio reports for news of the fighting overseas. And, while popular entertainment served to demonize the nation's enemies, it also was viewed as an escapist outlet that allowed Americans brief respites from war worries. <https://www.history.com>

ATOMIC BOMB: The official U.S. development of the atomic bomb began with the establishment of the Manhattan Project in August **1942**. By **July 1945**, a prototype weapon was ready for testing. On July 16, the first atomic bomb was detonated in the desert near the Los Alamos research facility in New Mexico. On **August 6, 1945** an American bomber dropped the world's first deployed atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The explosion wiped out 90 percent of the city and immediately killed 80,000 people. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, killing an estimated 40,000 people. Japan surrendered. The American atomic monopoly did not last long, though. By **1949**, the Soviets had developed their own atomic bomb, marking the beginning of the nuclear arms race and the Cold War. <https://www.history.com>

COLD WAR: Postwar Soviet expansionism in Eastern Europe fueled many Americans' fears of a Russian plan to control the world. Meanwhile, the USSR came to resent what they perceived as American officials' bellicose rhetoric, arms buildup and interventionist approach to international relations. By the time World War II ended, most American officials agreed that the best defense against the Soviet threat was to contain Russian expansion by defending countries against Russian control (Korean War). The containment strategy also provided the rationale for an unprecedented arms buildup in the United States, which led to the development of the Hydrogen Bomb (superbomb) and satellites like Sputnik and Explorer 1. The fear of Russian domination was also inherently linked to the supposed opposition between democracy and communism. Fear of communist subversion in the US, popularly known as the Red Scare, led to investigation of left-leaning socialites and politicians as communist sympathizers.

How are each of the following styles seen in the art in this gallery?

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL (1825 – 1870): The Hudson River School was a nineteenth century American art movement that celebrated the wilderness and great outdoors. The Hudson River School artists were influenced by the Romantics, using **dramatic scenes of nature** to express the American ideals of their time: **discovery and exploration**.

CUBISM (EUROPE 1907 – 1922): an early 20th-century style and movement in art, especially painting, in which perspective with a single viewpoint was abandoned and use was made of **simple geometric shapes, interlocking planes, and, later, collage**.

IMPRESSIONISM (1880 – 1920): American Impressionism adopted **bright palettes and loose brushstrokes** to capture the intimate beauty of everyday American life. Whether capturing the natural world or urban energy, the American Impressionists broke with the traditional expectations of academic art to usher in the first popular, modern art movement in America.

SOCIAL REALISM (1929 – 1950): is the term used for artwork that aims to draw attention to the **real socio-political conditions** of the working class as a means to critique the power structures behind these conditions.

AMERICAN REGIONALISM (1928 – 1943): the American realist modern art movement that included paintings, murals, lithographs, and illustrations depicting **realistic scenes of rural and small-town America**. It arose in the 1930s as a response to the Great Depression and ended in the 1940s at the end of World War II.

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM (1943 – 1965): Encompasses not only the work of painters who filled their canvases with **fields of color and abstract forms**, but also those who attacked their canvases with a **vigorous gestural expressionism** that expresses an emotional experience rather than impressions of the external world.

CONTEMPORARY REALISM (1960 – 1970s): Contemporary Realism emerged out of New York in direct defiance to the prevailing popularity of Abstract Expressionism. Like 19th century Realists, the movement aimed to depict the real rather than the ideal. Yet these new artists, proficient in modern art, employed this mission in a decidedly fresh fashion that built upon tradition while incorporating a contemporary sophistication and techniques in line with the current times.