

# Western Civilization

Art Discussion, Oct. 31, 2011

Group 2

# Caillebotte, *Paris Street; Rainy Day*. 1877.

- What features of this painting make the viewer feel involved in the scene?
- How does the painting capture the *space* and *motion* of modern city life?
- How is the picture plane divided into parts, and what impact does this have?



# Pissarro, *Boulevard Montmartre: Rainy Weather, Afternoon*. 1897.

- Compare and contrast this scene of Paris to the previous one by Caillebotte from 20 years earlier.
- How is the perspective of the viewer different? How is Pissarro's painting technique different?
- How is the sense of modern *space* and *motion* different here? How is the representation of the human form different?

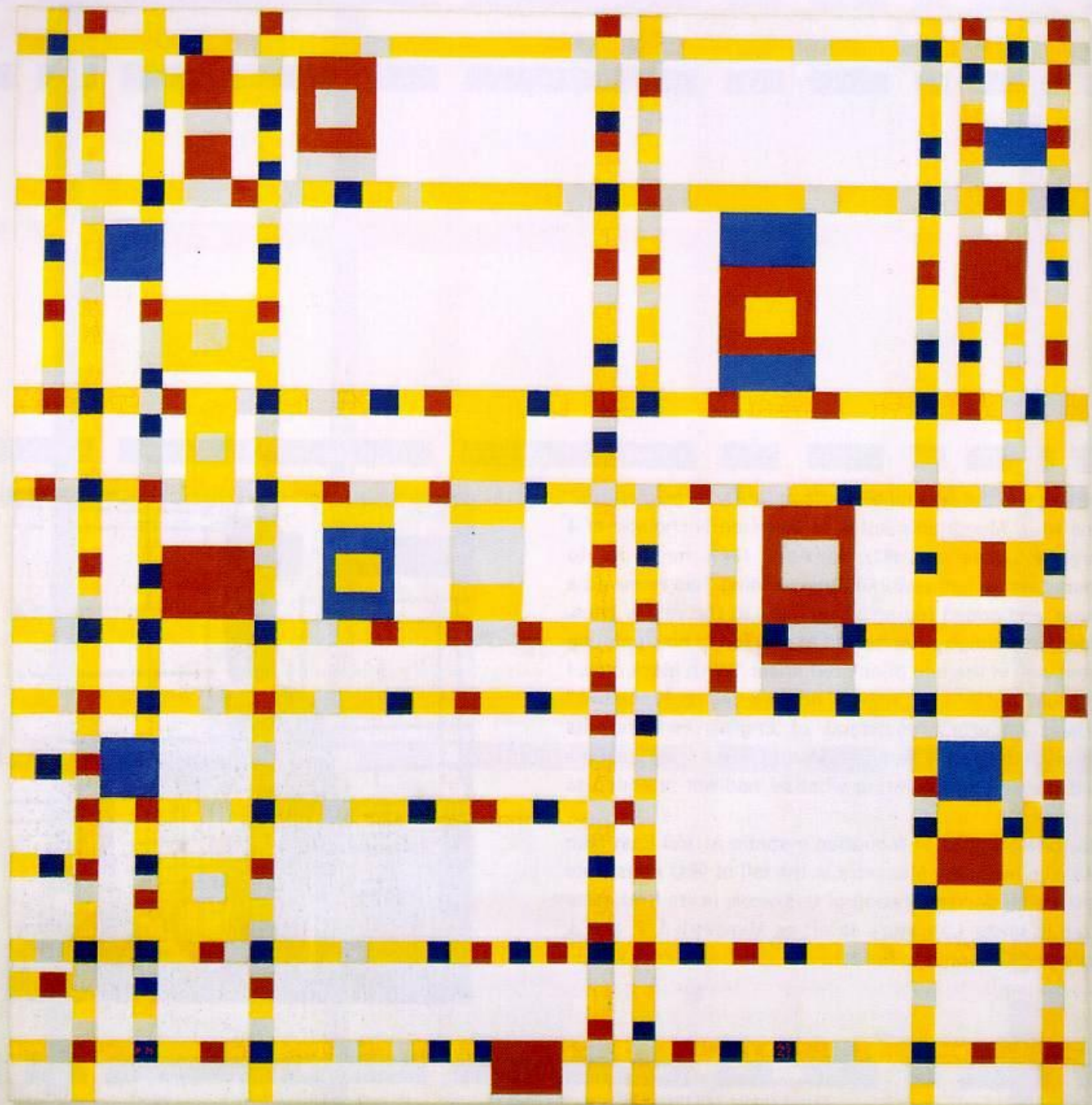




# Mondrian, *Broadway Boogie Woogie*. 1942-43.

- This painting might be taken as an example of abstract (Nonobjective) art, but the title suggests an urban reference. What is the significance of the title?
- How is the image of the city different here than in the works by Pissarro and Caillebotte? How is the viewer's perspective different?

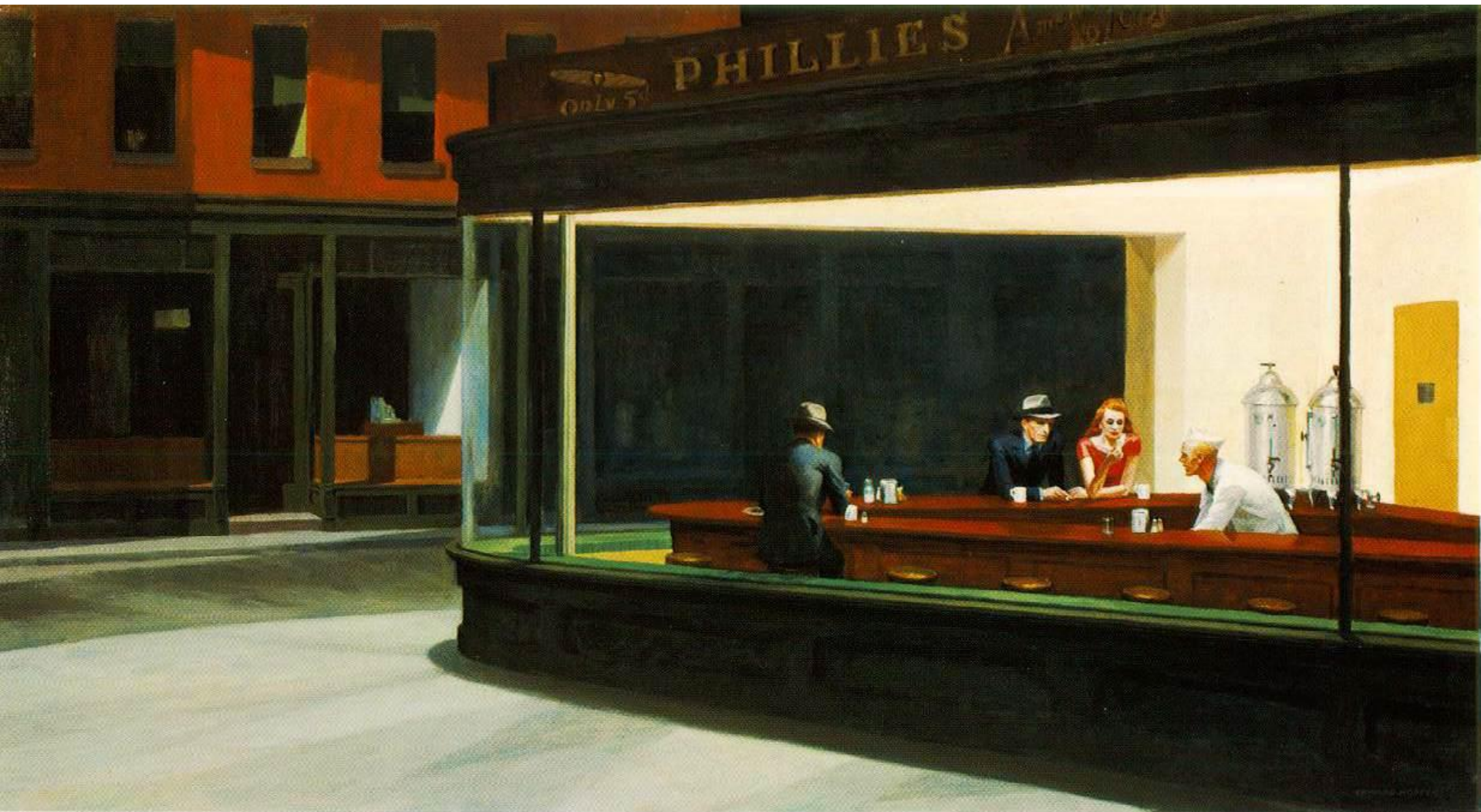




# Hopper, *Nighthawks*. 1942

- What scene does this painting depict and what is its emotional impact?
- Where does Hopper position us as viewers of the scene and what impact does this perspective have?
- What story or idea is suggested by each of the human figures in the scene?



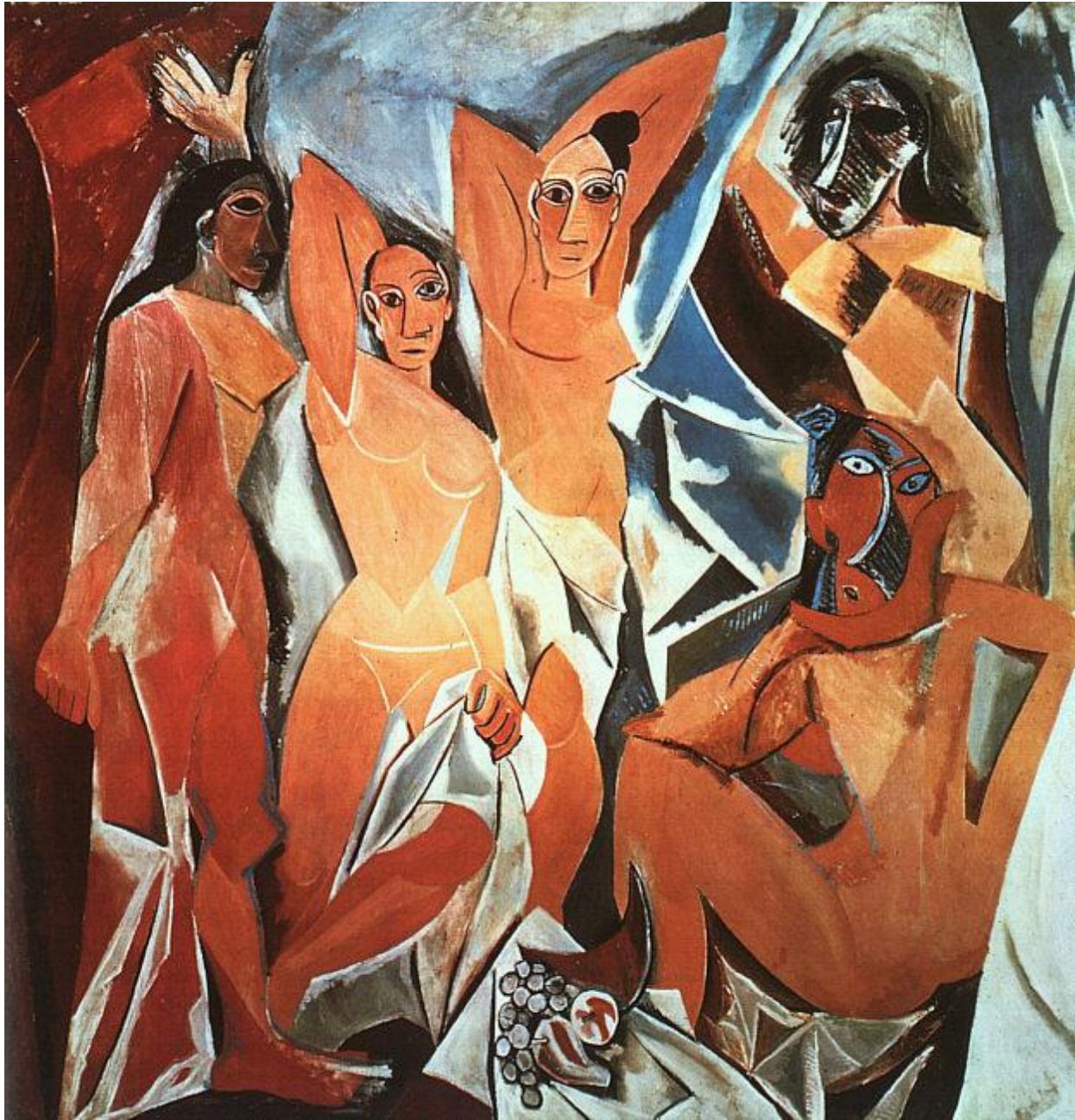


# Picasso, *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O)*.

1907

- This is Picasso's portrait of prostitutes at a brothel in Barcelona. It revolutionizes the depiction of the female nude in Western painting. How? What is new here?
- What is the significance of the African masks? How do these primitive elements fit in with Picasso's modernist goals?
- How is space portrayed in this painting?





# Dali, *The Persistence of Memory*. 1931

- What objects are depicted in this painting. How do they relate to one another—or is there a relationship?
- Does the title suggest any meaning for this arrangement of things?
- What is Dali's painting technique: his use of light and dark, his brushstrokes. How do these contribute to the effect of the painting?





# Munch, *The Scream*. 1893

- What is happening in this scene? What is the emotional state of the foreground figure? Is there any explanation of or cause for his scream?
- How does the structure of the painting contribute to its impact: the bridge, the water, the sky?
- Comment on the artist's use of line and color.

# Munch's notes

- “I walked with two friends. Then the sun sank. Suddenly the sky turned red as blood. . . . My friends walked on, and I was left alone, trembling with fear. I felt as if all nature were filled with one mighty unending shriek” (in Fiero 391)

