

# Top Ten Artists

## Grades Seven through Twelve

Art and artists are part of history. Place some artists or artworks on a timeline to see what else was happening during that time period. What social movements were present? Does the artist reflect them in their work?

### **Diane Arbus (1923-1971) • *Identical Twins*, 1967**

Diane Arbus was an American photographer noted for her images of people living on the fringes of society.

### **Alexander Calder (1898-1976) • *Red Mobile*, 1956**

Alexander Calder was a Pennsylvania-born artist who is credited with the invention of the mobile and the stabile. Calder was also a painter and printmaker.

### **Keith Haring (1958-1990) • *Radiant Baby*, n.d.**

Keith Haring was a painter, sculptor and social activist who had a significant impact on graffiti and public art throughout his lifetime. His death from HIV-Aids also called international attention to the disease.

### **Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) • *Self Portrait with Monkey*, 1938**

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter who created many self-portraits and images of Mexican culture in a realist style using much symbolism. She was an active communist and the wife of muralist Diego Rivera.

### **Wassily Kandinsky (1907-1954) • *Small Pleasures*, 1913**

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian painter and writer who is credited with the creation of the first modern abstract works of art.

### **Paul Klee (1879-1940) • *Fish Magic*, 1925**

Paul Klee was a Swiss painter, watercolorist and printmaker whose images relied heavily on child psychology and development. The Nazis, who termed his work “degenerate,” dismissed his art.

### **René Magritte (1898-1967) • *The Son of Man*, 1964**

René Magritte was a Belgian surrealist artist. His realistic images are based on dreams and fantasy, and are often puzzling, witty and amusing.

### **Claude Monet (1840-1926) • *Water Lily Pond*, 1899**

Clause Monet was a leading French Impressionist painter who studied light in several important series of paintings, including haystacks, the Rouen Cathedral and water lilies. His painting, *Impression Sunrise* (1872), led to the term “Impressionism.”

### **Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890) • *The Starry Night*, 1889**

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch draughtsman and painter well known for his expressive brushwork, his letters to his brother Theo, and his short-lived and tragic career as an artist.

### **Andy Warhol (1928-1987) • *Campbell's Soup Can*, 1968**

Andy Warhol was an American artist, filmmaker, writer and celebrity, publisher, music producer and actor. He was one of the founders of the Pop Art movement in the United States in the 1950s.

