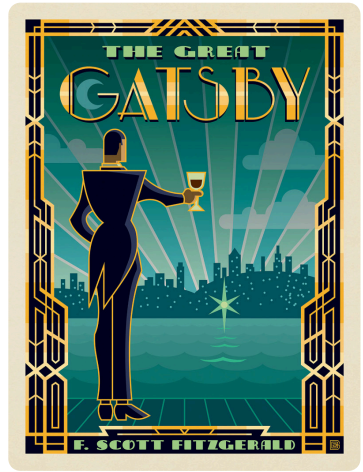


Art Deco

Period

Between two wars 1920-1930



Books

- [La garçonne](#)
- [The man with the Hispano](#)
- [The great Gatsby](#)

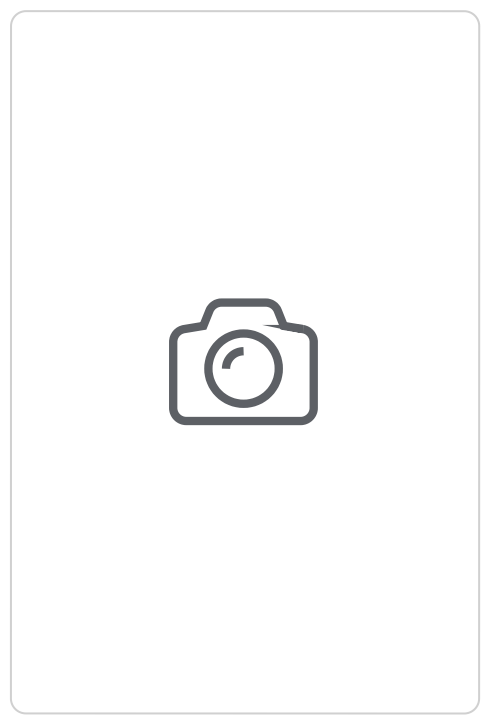
The Roaring Twenties



Années 1920, musiques folles
New-York

Jazz

Succeeded



Art Nouveau

- More geometric
- Increased stylization

Differs



modernism

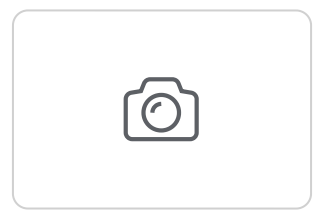
- More stripped-down
- More industrial

Accompany

- industrialization
- social changes
- post-war reconstruction

- female emancipation
- higher living standards

tomboys



flappers

Features

The cult of speed

Futurism



Umberto Boccioni

- italian
- russian



African

Asian

- inspiration
- Exoticism
- geometric shapes
- Prefer

The Roaring Twenties

After the horrors of the First World War, its millions of dead and its "broken faces", the world needed to feel alive, to enjoy the present moment, to get giddy in an endless farandole.

This was the era of Charleston and the Lost Generation, with writers like Francis Scott Fitzgerald who, with his wife, Zelda, became the icon of these carefree years.

La garçonne

A novel by Victor Margueritte that bears witness to the changing status of women: now independent, making decisions for themselves, refusing the desire for male domination.

The man with the Hispano

The Man with the Hispano is a minor novel, but one that bears witness to the troubled times when one could make a fortune quickly, acquire beautiful cars, and have the illusion that life was a never-ending series of pleasures.

An enchanted universe that the 1929 recession and the Second World War would explode both literally and figuratively.

The great Gatsby

A masterpiece of interwar American literature, The Great Gatsby (Gatsby the Magnificent) is a "novelette", a short novel, a literary form highly prized in the Anglo-Saxon world (think Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde or The Portrait of Dorian Gray) and almost totally ignored in French.

Art Nouveau

Art Deco, inspired in part by the geometric lines of the Viennese Secession, rejected the vegetal curves and "coup de fouet" style that characterized Art Nouveau.

Sometimes, the same architects represented both currents, such as Victor Horta, famous for his Art Nouveau townhouses and architect of the Palais des Beaux-Arts (renamed Bozar by the barbarians of Kultur) with its pared-back lines and acoustics bordering on perfection.

modernism

Modernism would be a more radical reaction to the naturalism of Art Nouveau: gone were not only the organic-inspired curves, but finished too were the decorations of Art Deco. Architecture favors "pure", geometric lines, bare surfaces and synthetic materials.

Modernism is a more radical reaction to the naturalism of Art Nouveau.

Umberto Boccioni

Umberto Boccioni, Dynamisation d'un joueur de football. Photo de Paul Brady, Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/71926212@N00/2291955492/in/photostream/>

African

Like the painters and sculptors Pablo Picasso and Amedeo Modigliani, architects and decorators were inspired by exotic cultures and colonial motifs.

A typical example is the Le Grand Eldorado auditorium at Brussels' UGC cinema, the largest in Belgium with 2,700 seats. Built in 1931 under the aegis of architect Marcel Chabot, it opened to the public in 1933 and has been listed as a cultural heritage site since 1994. The scenes adorning the walls celebrate the wealth of the Congolese colony.

Photo Marco Bertolini, opening of the BRIFF, Brussels International Film Festival, June 20, 2025.

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industrialization

Art nouveau, like William Morris's Arts & Crafts movement, aspired to offer beautiful objects and aesthetically pleasing homes to everyone.

But, this good intention came up against the prohibitive costs of materials and handcrafted manufacturing costs that were far too high for mass marketing.

Industrialization enabled Art Deco to partly resolve this contradiction by offering a wider public objects similar to those sold to the haute bourgeoisie, but produced on an industrial

scale with cheaper materials.

female emancipation

After their contribution to the war effort, women were no longer resigned to cooking, church and children (the famous Kinder, Kirche, Küche of Germany's Biedermeier.

They asserted themselves, rejecting the loose clothing that hid their forms in favor of short skirts. The sensual hair so dear to Baudelaire gave way to the "garçonne", popularized on screen by the dazzling Louise Brooks.

higher living standards

After the war, European states invested massively in reconstruction. This was a time of major public orders, but also of concentration of industrial capital, as in the German chemical industry or the French steel industry.