

LECTURE 003

Literature

Literature, in its broadest sense, is any written work; etymologically the term derives from Latin *litteratura*/ *litteratura* "writing formed with letters", although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. More restrictively, it is writing that possesses literary merit, and language that foregrounds literariness, as opposed to ordinary language. Literature can be classified according to whether it is fiction or non-fiction and whether it is poetry or prose; it can be further distinguished according to major forms such as the novel, short story or drama; and works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre)

The history of literature follows closely the development of civilization. When defined exclusively as written work, Ancient Egyptian literature,[43] along with Sumerian literature are considered the world's oldest literatures.[44] The primary genres of the literature of Ancient Egypt—didactic texts, hymns and prayers, and tales—were almost entirely written in verse. Literature in all its forms can be seen as written records, whether the literature itself be factual or fictional, it is still quite possible to decipher facts through things like characters' actions and words or the authors' style of writing and the intent behind the words.

The plot is for more than just entertainment purposes; within it lies information about economics, psychology, science, religions, politics, cultures, and social depth. Studying and analyzing literature becomes very important in terms of learning about our history. Through the study of past literature we are able to learn about how society has evolved and about the societal norms during each of the different periods all throughout history. This can even help us to understand references made in more modern literature because authors often make references to mythology and other old religious texts or historical moments.

Performing arts

The performing art is a form of entertainment that is created by the artist's own body, face and presence as a medium. There are many skills and genres of performance, dance and theatre being examples. Performance art is a performance that may not present a conventional formal linear narrative. Performance art differs from the plastic arts, which use materials such as clay, metal or paint which can be molded or transformed.

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Performance *art* arose in the early 1970s as a general term for a multitude of activities—including Happenings, body art, actions, events, and guerrilla theatre. It can embrace a wide diversity of styles.

Performing arts may include dance, music, opera, theatre and musical theatre, magic, illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry, circus arts, performance art, recitation and public speaking. There is also a specialized form of fine art, in which the artists perform their work live to an audience. This is called performance art. Most performance art also involves some form of plastic art, perhaps in the creation of props. Dance was often referred to as a plastic art during the Modern dance era.

- Performance art borrows styles and ideas from other forms of art, or sometimes from other forms of activity not associated with art, like ritual, or work-like tasks.

Theatre

Theatre is the branch of performing arts; concerned with acting out stories in front of an audience, using a combination of speech, gesture, music, dance, sound and spectacle. Any one or more of these elements is performing arts. Theatre takes such forms as plays, musicals, opera, ballet, illusion, mime, classical Indian dance and non-conventional or contemporary forms like postmodern theatre, post dramatic theatre, or performance art .

Dance

In the context of performing arts, dance generally refers to human movement, typically rhythmic and to music, used as a form of audience entertainment in a performance setting. Definitions of what constitutes dance are dependent on social, cultural, aesthetic artistic and moral constraints.

Dance is a powerful impulse, but the art of dance is that impulse channeled by skillful performers into something that becomes intensely expressive and that may delight spectators who feel no wish to dance themselves

Civilization and arts

Egyptian art

- 3000 BC to 100 AD.
- reached a high level in painting and sculpture, and was both highly stylized and symbolic
- use of media ranging from drawings on papyrus through wood, stone, and paintings

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- stone surfaces were prepared by whitewash, or if rough, a layer of coarse mud plaster, with a smoother *gesso* layer above; some finer limestones could take paint directly. Pigments were mostly mineral, chosen to withstand strong sunlight without fading.
- Sunk or sunken relief is largely restricted to the art of Ancient Egypt where it is used for large reliefs on external walls, and for hieroglyphs



Sunk relief
Statue
Hieroglyphics

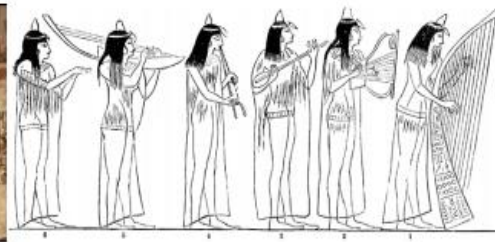
- Most of Egyptian secular and religious life was marked by the performance of music and dance.
- Lotus flowers, mandrakes, wigs and unguent cones, as well as men and women clothed in semi-transparent garments and the gestures of the banquet participants appeared in the 18th century.
- Detailed study of the depiction of dancers has revealed that the artists were often depicting a series of different steps in particular dances, some of which have been reconstructed. Movements of Egyptian dances were named after the motion they imitated.
- depictions of dance in Pharaonic tombs and temples invariably show the dancers either being accompanied by groups of musicians or themselves playing to keep the rhythm
- Many dancers depicted in the temple and tomb paintings and reliefs show dancers in athletic poses such as cartwheels, handstands and backbends.



Greek art

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- Sculpture (materials – marble, bronze, terracotta and wood)



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- Dance – expressions and actions of the features and head which suggest ideas like marching, acrobatic performances, mimetic.



- The plays were comedies (funny, often poking fun at rulers) or tragedies (sad and serious, with a lesson about right and wrong)
- The masterpieces of Greek drama date from the 5th century BC. At that time, in Athens, the audience sit on the bare hillside to watch performances on a temporary wooden stage. In the 4th century a stone auditorium is built on the site, and there is still a theatre there today - the theatre of Dionysus.

Read

more:<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=cui#ixzz3dxsalx5J>