

# A B C OF ITALIAN FUTURISM

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Marinetti is the founder of Futurism.

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Futurism is a revolutionary artistic movement which began in Italy in 1909.

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The futurists have created:

A NEW POETRY  
A NEW PICTORIAL ART  
A NEW SCULPTURE

A NEW MUSIC  
A NEW THEATRE  
A NEW ARCHITECTURE

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The futuristic poets have created:

**FREE**  
and  
unconventional

verse  
words  
imagination  
logic  
typography

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long words  
short words  
vertical words  
horizontal words  
oblique words

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Words that flutter lightly like butterflies

Words that tumble and scatter like snowflakes  
Words that crowd together like rain

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Words placed upright  
Words made to recline  
Words turned upside down

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Words in spirals like the smoke of a cigar  
Words in motion like a train  
Words that explode like a revolver shot

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Torn words,  
dismembered words,  
repeated words,  
elongated words,  
modified to express the emotion.

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Reality in futuristic painting is represented in elementary colors:  
red trees, yellow sky, purple meadow, orange houses, green furniture with  
few and rhythmic lines with synthetic and geometric form.

Colors, lines, forms are thrust together to produce a dynamic effect.

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The futurist calls the academic or conventional (painter): *passeist*.  
These *passeists* are fettered by traditions, museums and schools.  
When engaged with a work of art, they forget their own temperament,  
their mood, and fail to see the beauty life.  
They look through glasses that are clouded with the smoke of the past.

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It is necessary to distinguish between *handicraft*, and *the ability to conceive a work of art*.

Handicraft	{	skillful drawing skillful painting skillful modelling
ability to conceive a work of art	{	to invent a landscape to invent a statue to invent an architecture.

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## ORIGINALITY AND INVENTIVE GENIUS

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The futurists decided to create a new art which would exalt our time, in contradistinction to the art of the past.

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In fact the Italian futurists were the first to introduce:

« THE PAINTING OF MOTION »

« THE PAINTING OF MOOD »

« THE PAINTING OF ODORS »

« THE PAINTING OF SOUNDS »

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For example, they have painted pictures which interpreted absolutely modern subjects:

« BI CYCLIST IN MOTION »

« A TRAIN SPEEDING ON »

« AN AUTOMOBILE WHIZZING BY »

They have also chosen subjects that have been portrayed in the past:

« MEN, ANIMALS and LANDSCAPES »,

but they have viewed them with entirely different eyes.

Men, animals and landscapes are interpreted and expressed through motion in all its dynamic splendor.

For example:

« A MAN RUNNING »

muscles hurl their form and power through space. Space is modelled to express the motion of the runner.

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« ELASTICITY OF A GALLOPING HORSE »

The hoots clatter furiously on the hard surface of the green and yellow ground. The legs appear to be multiplied. The dilated jaws and nostrils are painting.

Their neighing makes the air vibrate.

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### LANDSCAPE IN MOTION

The difference is readily seen between a landscape viewed from the window of a moving train and a landscape viewed from the window of a stationary palace.

From the window of the palace the houses appear static in their squareness. The trees are firmly planted and it is possible to distinguish their branches and their leaves.

Everything in the street and landscape can be seen in all its details. But the landscape seen through the window of a moving train continually changes its aspect. The trees, the houses, the telegraph poles, appear like rushing sequence.

Towers merge with cypresses. Cypresses merge with dwellings. Houses and their inhabitants live into the lake. These images follow closely one upon the other. Here they are *superimposed*, there they *penetrate*, transparent and rapid.

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## AT HOME

The house is square.

I am climbing up the stairs (going up). I open the door. I close the door. I am sitting on the chair. My wife has bought a silken blauket. He has many colors: blue, yellow, gray and green. I see my face in the mirror. Long nose, chestunt eyes, black hair and pallid forehead.

I open the closet, I take out my new black coat.

I am hanging up the brown hat and tie.

I am washing my hands with soap in the bathroom.

I open the box and I take out a pair of new shoes.

The are a present for my wife. I payed eleven dollars for these shoes.

They are dark yellow and I like them.

Today I am painting the frame for my last picture in silver.

I am writing five letters today; two to Rovereto, two to New-York and one to Philadelphia.

From the ceiling hangs an old lamp.

My shadow lies down on the floor.

The sky is silken.

The clouds are woolen.

The chimney emits black smoke.

On the roof two cats mew their love.

The sun is dead behind the house which is in front of me.

The lamp has opened its eyes. It is looking at me, whit red pupils.

I close the window because I am afraid.

I am taking off my shoes and coat, and I am sitting on the couch. Rosetta is bringing me a glass of hot coffee.

It is very very good. Thank you and good night.

FORTUNATO DEPERO