

FOOD, ART, AND SOCIETY: Representations of food in the visual arts

Taverns, pubs, cafes, restaurants, banquets, festivals, picnics. Here are some suggestions for topics, and references to some of the artists who painted these types of subjects.

Tavern scenes – 17th century Dutch painters, e.g. Adriaen Brouwer; British painter William Hogarth painting and prints.

Picnics – Goya; Thomas Cole; Manet; Banksy; Bellini and Titian “The Feast of the Gods”

Cafes – Renoir; Manet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec

Banquet Scenes – Roman Wall painting and floor mosaics; Brueghel, “Peasant Wedding;” Hogarth; Raphael, “Wedding of Cupid and Psyche.”

The Last Supper – by artists such as Tintoretto; 20th century examples including Van Gogh, Damien Hirst.

Still Lifes – numerous Dutch painters, e.g. Clara Peeters, Jan Brueghel, de Heem, Franz Hals, Steen.

Surrealism and food – Still Life Portraits: Arcimboldo

American food culture – Pop Artists: Warhol, Rosenquist, Oldenburg

Images of poverty and food scarcity – van Gogh “Potato Eaters”

Italian Futurist Cookbook

Feminist food – Judy Chicago “The Dinner Party”

Food images in advertising – e.g. Oscar Meyer weiner mobile; roadside restaurant signage; McDonalds “Big Mac”; Wendy’s; Burger King, etc.

Contemporary artists using food as a medium in their work – Rikrit Tirarantija “Soup, No Soup” 2012 performance; Felix Gonzalez Torres “Candy Works” 1990-93; Tom Friedman “things you put in your mouth”