

Futurism

Tommaso Marinetti was born on the 22nd December 1876 and died on the 2nd December 1944. He was an Italian poet, editor, art theorist and the founder of Futurist movement. He was the author of the *futurist manifesto*, in which he claimed that 'we will free Italy from her innumerable museums which cover her like countless cemeteries'. In Italy, Futurism was especially crucial because of the weight of the past great artists of the Renaissance on Italian culture (e.g. Michelangelo, Leonardo). The past was even described as oppressive. Italian artists wanted an art form that could celebrate modern industry and technology.

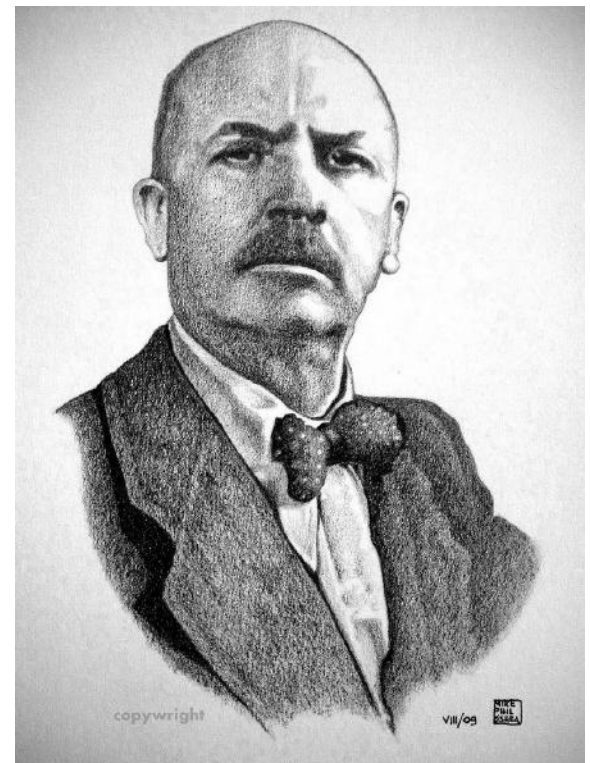


Umberto Boccioni (right) was an influential Italian painter and sculptor, born 19 October 1882 and died 17 August 1916.

Futurism was an Italian artistic and social movement of the early twentieth century that aimed to capture in art the dynamism and energy of the modern world, launched by Boccioni and Marinetti in 1909. It emphasized speed, technology, youth, violence, and objects such as the car, the airplane, and the industrial city.

Its key figures were the Italians Tommaso Marinetti, Umberto Boccioni, who aimed to liberate Italy from the weight of its past. Arguably, the movement seems similar in ideology to that of Benito Mussolini who was also aiming to create a new and better Italy that did not have ties with its past. The artists of this movement used cubism to present the idea of energy and movement.

The founding manifesto did not contain a positive artistic programme, which the Futurists attempted to create in their subsequent Technical Manifesto of Futurist Painting (1914). This committed them to a "universal dynamism", which was to be directly represented in painting. Objects in reality were not separate from one another or from their surroundings: "



Tommaso Marinetti



Tommaso Marinetti's
futurism manifesto

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