



# ROY LICHTENSTEIN



## EARLY LIFE

Roy Fox Lichtenstein was born on October 27, 1923, in New York City and lived in an upper-middle-class Jewish family. His father, Milton, was a real estate broker and his mother, Beatrice, was a homemaker. He was raised on the Upper West Side of New York City and attended public school until the age of twelve. He then attended New York's Dwight School, graduating from there in 1940.

## INSPIRATIONS

Lichtenstein first became interested in art and design as a hobby, through school. He drew and painted from a young age, his mother inspiring his art through exploration of New York's museum cultures, spending many hours in the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Modern Art. He was also musically talented. His early artistic idols were Rembrandt, Daumier and Picasso.

Lichtenstein spent many years studying art before teaching at a number of universities. He died of pneumonia on September 29, 1997 at New York University Medical Centre, where he had been hospitalised for several weeks, four weeks before his 74th birthday.

## ARTISTIC STYLE

He used the Ben Day process where the illusion of colours and shading can be achieved through the print-style effect of evenly spacing dots (sometimes other marks) of primary colours. He was inspired by the work of comic artists and the way they could create a meaningful story through the use of simple strips. He described his work as a parody (an exaggerated imitation) of real life. Though Lichtenstein studied Fine Art, he is known for his Pop Art, particularly through the 60s, using oil and an early form of acrylic which was shiny and not water-soluble.



## POP ART

Pop Art emerged mainly in the UK and US around the late 1950s. It is defined by an interest in portraying mass culture and reimagining commercial products as accessible art. It is renowned for its bold imagery, bright colour palette, and repetitive approach inspired by mass production. While the movement lasted roughly from the 1950s through the early 1970s, it was reborn as Neo-Pop Art in the 1980s thanks to artists like Jeff Koons. Commercial art wasn't considered valuable by the art world, and many just saw works as mass produced, gimmicky images.



### FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/pop-art>

### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Who was one of his artistic idols?
2. What other talents did he have?
3. What was the name of the process Roy used to create his art?
4. When did Pop Art start in the UK and US?
5. Name a 1980's Pop Art artist?