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Question 5: Choose a theme, movement, or selection of artists or designers that relate to your practice or interests, and construct a 2,500-word essay. Critically assess consider primary themes, key writers, and relevant practitioners.

How the Industrial Revolution Paved the way for Artists Today

The industrial revolution can be seen as causing numerous problems like mass production and pollution. I focus on these themes in my practise, taking influence from different artists and writers of the time, understanding their take and experience on it and how it changed society. Life changed and so did the way people saw art, the industrial revolution showed a fundamental shift between thought and artistic expression. The industrial revolution was a big contribution to how the world is today. My practice explores the juxtaposition between nature and industry, often focussing on elements that portray a message. My work focuses on mass production and looks into how the industrial revolution has highly influenced today's world. I am currently looking into how industry has slowly progressed into our day to day domestic lives and how it's everywhere. Exploring different elements of industrialization through research has informed my practice. My work has always been ruled by my surroundings especially the coastlines. It's hard not to get political in art as the world is ever changing and manifesting into something different, it's a way to capture the world how it is today. An artist that has inspired me and my paintings is J.M.W Turner. Similar to Turner my work is ruled by both nature and industry, his oil paintings reflected industrialisation whilst portraying the beauty of nature.



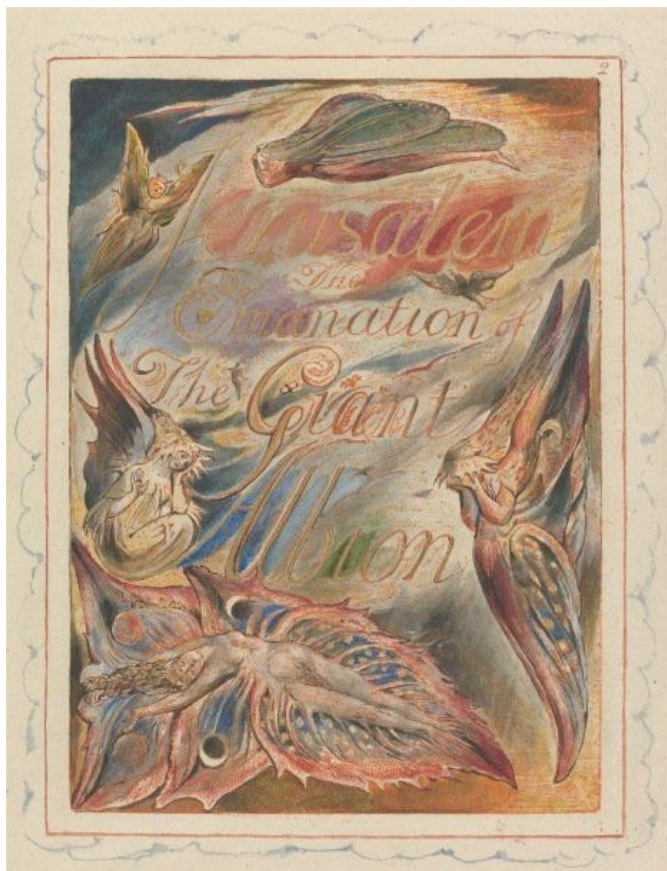
(Turner, 1840)

Even though the industrial revolution took place approximately 200 years ago, it is a period in history that will always be remembered. It had a major impact on people's lives and businesses, how societies worked and lived changed. Agricultural and resource based economies transformed into an economy based on mass production that was associated with increasing an economy's total income. Men left their farms to work in high risk, long hour factory jobs. Even though there were no safety precautions men still went to work in the factories because it was more income than farm work. Trouble soon came when the workers left their farms for higher wage jobs because it led to food production shortages, the increase in factories being built led to pollution and living was very unsanitary. Sewage and waste was flowing on the streets because most manufacturers dumped their waste into the rivers causing it to overflow. Cities quickly became overpopulated as people started migrating for better work. (Blokhin, 2019) Health issues became a problem for many of the factory workers as they were doing long hours with minimal breaks.

“the long hours of work and the poor, relatively expensive transport forced workers to reside near their places of work” (Rodden, 2011). This caused tension in society, people were stressed and a lot of diseases started appearing due to poor nutrition, overcrowding and working very long hours.

We must remember that it wasn't just men's lives that were affected, women also got the opportunity to finally work outside the home. Transferring from working alongside their husbands to working themselves in a factory. This didn't last long however as, culture soon erupted and women were forced to be ‘angels in the household’(Dačić, 2018). Men believed that women should be submissive to their husbands and their lives should be devoted to household duties and taking care of children. Women were discouraged from working outside the home. This soon led to the creation of the Feminist art movement in the 1970s primarily led by Miriam Schapiro and this encouraged women to improve their practice and educate themselves at colleges that were strictly men only. In the industrial revolution there was a big oppression of children. Pushed to work in factories where there was no safety, the children were as young as 6 and injuries were very common. William Blake liked to focus on what impact industry was having on people, whether the industrial age was affecting their happiness or temperament. Blake shared these worries and thoughts in illustrated poems. He wanted to show his readers the issue head on, with full directness. Blake's style of writing clearly shows how

passionate he was about the industrial revolution, he believed it was doing more harm than good. Blake showed concern for the children in the work front, he knew it was wrong, the industry shouldn't be using small children as labourers just because they fit the small criterias needed for certain, dangerous jobs. 'Although Blake hated the Industrial Revolution he still had hope. This hope comes in the form of a poem he wrote called '*Jerusalem*'. Although he believed in and followed the ideals of the French revolution, this poem shows how there is still hope'(Anesica, 2010).



(Blake, 1804–20)

When the industrial revolution started everything changed, people started to see things in a way they never knew existed, jobs vacancies were slowly getting harder to find as many were migrating so people started to educate themselves. People put more effort into learning, exploring and inventing with this, new inventions commenced and shaped a new world, the world that we know today. It was a new age that was run by science and inventions. In a way science could of been seen as creative due to amazing scientists like Humphrey Davy discovered new elements and Michael Faraday harnessed the power of electricity. 'The

explosion of Davys volcano, probably by the action of water on potassium permanganate, is a useful metaphor for the explosion of public interest in natural philosophy in the early nineteenth century'(Hamilton, 1998). Another great invention for the production of industry was James Watt's steam engine creation. His development powered mines, factories and other machinery, this created a big shift in the lives of working class people. Steam power completely revolutionised the work that could be done in factories. Over time this led to the creation of ships and automobiles which started building a huge rise in product demand. This once again created more job opportunities and even more factories became widespread and the cycle repeats. There were a lot of cons to the industrial revolution, one of the main problems when mass production first got introduced was that it was capital-insensitive. Yes, there are a lot of disadvantages to the industrial revolution, but many people see it as revolutionary. Labour costs are lower, less workers and more machinery doing work. Some people see mass production as more efficient, distribution and marketing is faster, products sell faster because there's no wait for a product to be made, the product is constantly being restocked, mass production means the product will always be available if people need them urgently.

When industrialisation started there was a lot of emotion in the art world. Many artists took this as an opportunity. However, 'in the face of such manifestations of industry some artists turned their backs on the contemporary scene altogether and looked for comfort to an arcadian past or went into a kind of melancholy retreat'(Klingender, 1986). Out of the industrial revolution a lot of movements in art started to evolve into what we know them as today. Romanticism started in 1770, artists saw their work as some kind of escapism from the grey struggle of labour in factories. Total contrast to the romantics, realists wanted to show the world how it was, bring things back to reality. They wanted to relate to the audience and empathise with the labourers. So realists painted the harsh realities as they saw it. Another movement being the Arts and Crafts movement. It was a movement that rebelled against industrialisation. Artists wanted to make work that was personal and not mass produced on a production line. There were some amazing artists that shaped the arts and crafts movements such as William Morris, Jane Morris and May Morris. In 1848 The Pre-Raphaelites brotherhood had a fascination with mediaeval design as they wanted to create work that was nostalgic and used very medieval themes within their art usually always revolving around the subject of nature.

J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) is one of the main artists connected to the industrial revolution. Born into a totally different era. Once famous for his sunsets with dramatic skies and wild seas, turned to a new artistic interest. Machines, technology and the industry were some things that influenced turners oil paintings. Turner was at the center of a colossal event and painted the journey, he painted the industrial revolution as it unfolded before him. Turner being at the heart of industrialization was the first to record the first international steam travel in the 1820s.

Turner liked to be very direct with his audience, he was showing people through his paintings that it's here, the industrial revolution is altering the way we live.

'He painted the kind of impressions that remained in the memory for years or decades' (Lawrence, 1996) this is shown in his work '*the fighting temeraire*'. There was no better way to show his audience that the world is changing, the Temeraire is one of history's most important ships, in the painting, the magnificent ship is being towed away by a modern steam tugboat. 'The Temeraire played a key role in England's victory in the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar against Napoleon forces' (Artble, 2019). Turner portrayed this event perfectly, the moon rising on the left and the sun setting on the right, showing a new era arising, the past being pulled by the future. Turner captured The Temeraire in all its beauty, painting it as if it was still at its prime, he presents the Temeraire to be floating across the waters effortlessly, while the tugboat creates harsh ripples and dark smoke, creating contrast in his work. 'The tugs black funnel may trumpet the supremacy of steam; but the colours with which Turner paints the tug itself are by no means ugly, and the fact that it too catches the sunset glow may suggests that it will also be transient' (Egerton, 1995). This work is a great explanation of age passing from steel to modern technology.



(Turner, 1839).

Turner embraced steam into his work. He looked at steam and new technology with the same beauty he would a sunset. Turner was very interested in science specifically focussing on weather and liked to show this in his work. When new theories came about or science had a scientific breakthrough, Turner was at the forefront showing his interpretation of this. When William Herschel commented on the Milky Way being a disk like shaped galaxy with the sun in the center, while 'developing telescoping to an unprecedented technical precision, enabling him to discovering stars and planets' (Hamilton, 1998) Turner took all this information and manifested it into his own unique practice. Turner liked to think of the sun as a physical object, applying impasto, thick paint that stands out from the canvas, he does this to bring the sun closer to the audience's attention. When a young Quaker called Luke Howard started his small lectures on the study of clouds people believed that clouds were unique and stood on their own. However, Howard being interested in modern meteorology made the conclusion that there are many shapes and sizes of clouds but there are only 3 basic forms. When this information came to light, people were shocked and the news was everywhere, Howard called the three forms cirrus, cumulus and stratus. Turner heard about Howard's classification in an artist's manual and took a lot of inspiration from it and applied this within his work. Throughout all of Turner's work you notice that he was most definitely fascinated by the weather. 'The root of that feeling is what philosophers called sublime, an obsession with the powerful sources of nature. It was the big idea for Turner and other romantic painting in the early 1800s' (Turner project, 2018).

The sublime is an important aspect in art history. A category that represented nature when it was most terrifying at the time, 'Turner was fascinated with those aspects of nature that showed how fragile human life was' (turner project, 2018).

Turner is driven by his passion and love for Claude Lorraine's compositions. This is reflected in most of his masterpieces, though there is usually one unique difference, Turner includes sections of modern day technology such as the water wheel, a steam boat or even men working in mines. 'Along with many of his contemporaries, Turner viewed Claude's paintings as a distillation of all he expected to find in this hallowed landscape'(Warrell, 2012).



Turner(1823)



Lorrain(1639)

Turner, an artist born into the victorian era set the way for many contemporary artists today, he has also been a big influence throughout my practise. I too am interested in seascape, landscape and capturing the movement and beauty nature creates whilst also adding in elements that will create an emotion or some kind of impact on the viewer, while adding in notions of modern society such as cranes, sign posts, boats and architecture. I like to do this while focussing on major problems in the world such as pollution, human trafficking and mass production. My work focuses on found materials in my current environment as a way to reuse unwanted and discarded materials. In the past I have shown these major problems by creating work revolving around plastic pollution in the oceans. One example being, creating an exhibition

showing figures covered and surrounded in melted found plastics. I believe as an artists i should inform the audience, take my position in my profession and educate people. Art is a platform to share ideas, the industrial revolution created the movements that let artists speak there voice and promote their work freely, something that female artists sought to do for many decades. The industrial revolution shaped the path for art movements to begin, it lead to many successes in the art industry. I Introduced industry into my work as I beleive mass production has taken away the desire to invent. Before the industrial revolution all making was done in the home, from garment making to carpentry and ceramics. There were no machines or technology to help or do it for you, everything was personal, all things were made for a purpose. Society is now comfortable in knowing that everything is there when they need it, the industry has provided that, but people don't think about the consequences these factories are causes. My work takes influence from history and how previous artists have shaped the way current artists work. Similar to my own work Turner created work of the time, painting the landscape he saw, showing the world in its current beauty.

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