

## **The Futurist Manifesto (1909), by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti**

This manifesto was written only a few years after the turn of the century. During that time there was immense progress in technology, trains, planes, ships and cars everything was moving faster and faster. The countries borders started to move rapidly, the hassle and bustle of the city became ever more apparent, as the veins were slowly built the train tracks and roads carried the citizens at ever faster speeds. The nightlife seemed ever more active, as cars would drive past their headlights becoming nothing but a blur in the darkness. The ever increasing speed and the blurred figures of fading lights; is what inspired the Futurists, they wanted to paint something that mimicked the movement of life and the ferocity of man. Their paintings usually showed a lack of perspective and realism, but this was to portray movement and speed. When a car goes past you at thirty miles per hour, you don't see the vehicle in detail; all you see is a blur of color and the faded image of what was previously there.

Even with all of this, this manifesto is not really about movement, but about proving one's existence. This was published during a time when all of Europe was undergoing industrial expansion, as such the Italians thought the need to show that they could keep up with the world. This is why Futurism is the focus of speed.

Lastly this manifesto was published before any of the great events that took place in the twentieth century, which is said to be the meaning behind the manifesto. It is a piece that is meant to suggest where we are going, productions of the future based on our current actions.

The way in which Marinetti describes the world in this manifesto is fast paced and vibrant, with little attention to detail other than what's happening is happening. This is the same quality that artwork from the futurist movement retains.