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The Art of Influence: When and Why Deviant Artists Gain Impact

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Some artists rise to fame, while others sink into oblivion. What determines whether artists make an impact? Considering deviance in its sociohistorical context, we propose that artists whose work deviates from their own previous style (intrapersonal deviance) and other artists' styles (interpersonal deviance) gain greater impact than nondeviant artists, as long as deviance is directed toward a progressive style. A preliminary study showed that in western cultures nonrealistic styles are considered more progressive than realistic styles (Study 1). Five more studies provide evidence for the effects of the two types of artistic deviance on several aspects of impact (i.e., perceived influence of the artist, valuation of the artwork, and visual attention to the artwork). First, individuals considered artists who deviated from their previous style more impactful than artists who consistently followed a single style (Study 2), effects that were stronger when artists transitioned from a retrogressive style to a progressive one (Study 3). Second, artists who deviated from their contemporaries' style were considered more impactful than artists who followed the predominant style, effects that were stronger when artists strayed from a predominant retrogressive style by using progressive means of expression (Studies 4 and 5). When the historical context prevented observers from inferring the progressiveness of the deviant artists' expressive means, artistic deviance enhanced perceived impact regardless of the means by which the artists deviated (Study 6). Supporting our theoretical model, the effects of intrapersonal and interpersonal deviance on impact were mediated by perceived will-power (Studies 3, 5, and 6).

Keywords: artistic impact, deviance, influence, norms

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The rue le Peletier is a road of disasters. After the fire at the Opera, there is now yet another disaster there. An exhibition has just been opened at Durand-Ruel which allegedly contains paintings. I enter and my horrified eyes behold something terrible. Five or six lunatics, among them a woman, have joined together and exhibited their works. I have seen people rock with laughter in front of their pictures but my heart bled when I saw them. These would-be artists call themselves revolutionaries, "Impressionists." They take a piece of canvas, color and brush, daub a few patches of paint on it at random, and sign the whole thing with their name. It is a delusion of the same kind as if the inmates of Bedlam picked up stones from the wayside and imagined they had found diamonds. (Leroy, 1876, as cited by Gombrich, 1995, p. 519)

Of the few humans who are remembered centuries after their death, a large proportion are artists. Painters like Claude Monet, the famous pioneer of Impressionism, are nowadays considered geniuses, but in their time they were fiercely criticized for violating prominent norms of beauty, as the above review mirthfully illustrates. From a psychological point of view, deviations from prevailing norms pose a chal-

lenge to the viewer because they disrupt fluency and render meaning extraction more effortful (Koffka, 1935; Landau, Greenberg, Solomon, Pyszczynski, & Martens, 2006; Reber, Schwarz, & Winkielman, 2004; Reber, Winkielman, & Schwarz, 1998; Rosch, 1975). Why, then, do visual artworks often deviate from the prevailing artistic norms of their era? And how do deviant artists gain recognition and make a lasting impact? The theoretical model developed here seeks to explain how artists who deviate from prevailing norms gain impact. Our approach bridges theorizing and research in psychology with empirical and philosophical accounts of aesthetics to provide a comprehensive model that accounts for the role of deviance in shaping artists' impact.

How Deviance Shapes Artistic Impact

How does deviance from prevailing artistic norms shape an artist's impact? At first blush, one might think that artistic deviance undermines impact, because unexpected stimuli are more

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permission to collect data in the museum café, and the Munch Museum, Oslo, for providing us with high-resolution images; the Hundertwasser Foundation and Pictoright for giving us permission to reproduce images of artworks; and the artists Graham White, Lena Levin, and Richard Whitney for their kind permission to use their artworks in our research.

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difficult to process and comprehend (Koffka, 1935; Landau et al., 2006; Reber et al., 1998, 2004; Rosch, 1975). Indeed, theories of visual perception hold that perceiving predicted stimuli requires fewer cognitive resources and engenders more positive affect (de-Wit, Machilsen, & Putzeys, 2010). Preferences for predictable stimuli have been observed with regard to color (Martindale & Moore, 1988), furniture (Whitfield & Slatter, 1979), paintings (Farkas, 2002), and exemplars of semantic categories (Martindale, Moore, & West, 1988). In the social domain, too, people tend to prefer individuals who adhere to norms and rules rather than individuals who violate norms and rules, because the latter pose a potential threat to smoothly functioning groups and societies (Heerdink, Van Kleef, Homan, & Fischer, 2013; Jetten & Hornsey, 2014; Jonas et al., 2014; Proulx, Heine, & Vohs, 2010; Van Kleef, Wanders, Stamkou, & Homan, 2015). Individuals who violate behavioral norms are more likely to evoke negative emotions such as anger and blame (Helweg-Larsen & LoMonaco, 2008; Kam & Bond, 2009; Ohbuchi et al., 2004), to be punished (Boyd & Richerson, 1992; Zuckerman, 1999), to be considered uncommitted to the group (Feldman, 1984), and to lose their leadership position (Yukl, 2010). Furthermore, ideas that violate expectations and people who violate gender norms are often discouraged and treated with suspicion (Mueller, Melwani, & Goncalo, 2012; Okimoto & Brescoll, 2010). Based on this logic, one would expect people to generally prefer art that keeps with tradition to art that deviates from it, because the former contains more predictable patterns and conforms more to implicit norms and expectations.

Despite the intuitive plausibility of these arguments, several strands of theorizing and research suggest that people may actually appreciate and reward deviance, both within and outside the artistic domain. When it comes to encountering deviant art, unpredicted patterns may pose less of a threat as compared with encountering potentially order-undermining behavior of a deviant group member. In fact, in the safe as-if context of art, works that belie a predicted pattern may even lead to perceptual pleasure, as the wavering state of prediction error amplifies the subsequent positive affect of prediction confirmation by means of a contrast effect (Huron, 2006; Van de Cruys & Wagemans, 2011). Empirical evidence in favor of this account comes from studies investigating the aesthetic appreciation of music. For instance, Sloboda (1991) found that marked violations of expectations in music correlate with “shivers down the spine,” which are associated with increases in flow in reward- and euphoria-related regions of the brain (e.g., ventral striatum and orbitofrontal cortex; Blood & Zatorre, 2001). Other theories of visual perception suggest that incongruent and unfamiliar stimuli can cause interest (Berlyne, 1960), which can motivate the exploration of one’s environment and the learning of new knowledge, skills, and experiences (Silvia, 2006, 2008).

Research outside the artistic domain also provides suggestive evidence that deviance can, under particular circumstances, contribute to influence. First, research on the perception of social targets has demonstrated that deviating from behavioral standards can bring about positive outcomes. Deviating from norms indicates that one experiences the leeway to act according to one’s own volition in spite of situational constraints and potential repercussions (Stamkou & Van Kleef, 2014). Given that social power is associated with lack of constraint (Galinsky, Gruenfeld, & Magee, 2003; Keltner, Gruenfeld, & Anderson, 2003), individuals whose behavior appears unconstrained by normative pressures may be

perceived as powerful. Indeed, empirical studies have shown that individuals who violated prevailing norms were considered more powerful than individuals who complied with the norms (Stamkou, Van Kleef, Homan, & Galinsky, 2016; Van Kleef, Homan, Finkenauer, Gündemir, & Stamkou, 2011). Moreover, norm violators whose behavior benefited others were more likely to be given a leadership role (Papa, Phillips, & Robertson, 2014; Van Kleef, Homan, Finkenauer, Blaker, & Heerdink, 2012). Other studies showed that individuals who entered a boutique wearing gym clothes rather than appropriate attire or who attended a black tie event wearing a red tie were ascribed higher status because they were considered autonomous (Bellezza, Gino, & Keinan, 2014). Of note, when the violator’s behavior was portrayed as unintentional, these effects were attenuated, which is consistent with the notion that inferences of power are contingent on the perception that violators have greater will-power. In short, deviant behavior can fuel perceptions of influence in social interactions as long as the actor’s behavior is considered willful.

Second, deviation from default thinking styles has been associated with creativity, which is the basis of an artist’s reputation and impact. For example, in one study the activation of counterstereotypical thinking propelled the generation of creative ideas (Gocłowska, Crisp, & Labuschagne, 2013). Moreover, divergent cultural experiences, such as multiculturalism or living abroad, foster creative performance by diversifying one’s cognitive perspectives (Maddux & Galinsky, 2009; Maddux, Adam, & Galinsky, 2010; Tadmor, Galinsky, & Maddux, 2012). In other studies, participants who were primed with cues representing the concept of deviancy showed greater creative engagement than participants who were primed with conformity cues (Förster, Friedman, Butterbach, & Sassenberg, 2005). This association between divergent thinking and creativity may contribute to lay beliefs that maverick artists can create work of high impact (Feist, 1998; Van Tilburg & Igou, 2014).

In sum, given that people who deviate from conventional behaviors or thinking styles gain benefits that may translate into an elevated social position, we propose that artists who use unconventional means of expression in their work may make a greater impact than artists who follow conventional means of expression. Thus, if we accept the premise that deviating from norms and expectations can elevate one’s impact in social hierarchies (see Van Kleef et al., 2015), the hypothesis follows that artists who deviate from a given artistic norm are perceived as more impactful than artists who follow the norm. Although we thus contend that, generally speaking, deviating from prevailing norms and expectations can boost an artist’s impact, we acknowledge that artistic deviance is not a fixed notion—it is bound to the social and historical context that shapes the background against which deviance is considered.

Considering Artistic Deviance in Its Social Context

The social context refers to the immediate social setting in which artists develop their work. Here we focus on two different types of social context that we believe may shape perceivers’ responses to deviant art: the artist’s own previous work and the work of the artist’s contemporaries. Our definition of artistic deviance is derived from the notion of descriptive norms, which describe which behaviors are typically performed (Cialdini, Reno,

& Kallgren, 1990). Deviance from an artistic descriptive norm thus implies that artists deviate from a prevailing artistic style. Deviating from one's own previous style can be considered a form of *intrapersonal artistic deviance*, whereas deviating from the predominant style of one's contemporaries constitutes a form of *interpersonal artistic deviance*. In the first case, the focus is on how an artist's work is judged against the context of his or her own previous style, whereas in the second case the focus is on how an artist's work is judged against the style adopted by the majority of his or her contemporaries.

Intrapersonal Deviance

New art movements do not emerge out of a vacuum. Art mostly evolves in an incremental way, where the new is folded into the old (Gombrich, 1995), much alike biological and cultural evolution (Heine, 2015; Nunn, 2008; Voigtländer & Voth, 2012). Accordingly, artworks are often judged against the background of the artist's previous work, and indeed many expositions are structured chronologically so as to highlight the artist's development over time. This notion of contextual judgment is important, because it implies that the evaluation of a particular piece of art may depend on the type of art the artist made before. In other words, an artwork may be judged differently depending on whether the artist followed the same style before or whether he deviated from his previous style.

According to idiosyncrasy credits theory (Hollander, 1958), one can only deviate from old practices after one has proven oneself capable of following them. Earlier conformity to old practices allows others to develop confidence in a person's skills and commitment to the group, which in turn licenses deviance at a later stage (Bray, Johnson, & Chilstrom, 1982; Stone & Cooper, 2009). The operation of such mechanisms can be seen in the careers of famous artists. For instance, historical analyses of the career of the pop band The Beatles highlight how the early albums of The Beatles conformed to the norms of their time, and how after gaining credits by following these norms they began producing highly innovative music that skyrocketed their sales and fame (Inglis, 1996). Another example is found in the rap scene where Lena and Pachucki (2013) empirically demonstrated that rap artists gained status by first showing a repetition of practices that were understood as legitimate by their audience and then introducing novel artistic content that increased their popularity. In classical music too, Beethoven diligently studied and even copied parts of the works of his musical predecessors (e.g., Haydn, Mozart, Bach) before he pushed the boundaries of traditional compositional technique to infuse his late works with unheard-of passion and drama that account for his international fame (Schonberg, 1997; Swafford, 2014).

Extending these ideas to the realm of the visual arts, we argue that it is important for artists to obtain sufficient idiosyncrasy credits by first practicing forms of art that are considered traditional in a given era before allowing themselves the leeway to stray to innovative forms of art. If an artist sticks to the same style, observers may assume that this choice of style is dictated by lack of alternatives—because, for instance, the artist did not have the skills to adopt an alternative style—rather than by a deliberate choice. In contrast, if an artist's portfolio integrates different styles, observers may assume that the artist is able to produce a

certain artistic style, but deliberately chose to adopt another style. In this latter case, the artist's choice to switch to another style indicates the artist's will to develop an autonomous artistic path. Appreciating the artist's course of action under the prism of will-power should in turn enhance perceptions of impact (Bellezza et al., 2014; Stamkou & Van Kleef, 2014).

In light of these considerations, we hypothesize that artists who show a variety of styles by deviating from what they were making before (i.e., intrapersonal artistic deviance) are credited more for their work than artists who stay within a certain style by reproducing what they were making before.

Interpersonal Deviance

Existential and evolutionary accounts converge to suggest that humans have an enduring and universal need to distinguish themselves from others (Burris & Rempel, 2004). Previous research has shown that information is better memorized when it distinguishes the self from others (Leyens, Yzerbyt, & Rogier, 1997). Feelings of extreme similarity to others are associated with negative affect (Fromkin, 1972), positive evaluation of scarce experiences (Fromkin, 1970), and greater identification with distinctive groups (Brewer & Pickett, 1999). Accordingly, people generally describe themselves as less similar to others than others are to themselves (Codol, 1987). These findings indicate that individuals are motivated to establish and maintain a sense of differentiation from others by acting in ways that show their distinctiveness to others (Brewer, 1991). Research also indicates systematic differences in the particular ways in which feelings of distinctiveness can be achieved depending on one's social, cultural, or professional milieu (Dutton, Roberts, & Bednar, 2010; Hornsey, Jetten, McAuliffe, & Hogg, 2006; Vignoles, Chryssochoou, & Breakwell, 2000). In the realm of art, the most straightforward way for artists to differentiate themselves is to depart from the style employed by most other artists in their era (Alvarez, Mazza, Pedersen, & Svejnova, 2005). Because making a difference entails comparison with others, judgments of artists' work are influenced by their contemporaries' work. In other words, contemporaries' work constitutes the interpersonal context within which an artist's work is evaluated (Barkow, Cosmides, & Tooby, 1992; Leder, Belke, Oeberst, & Augustin, 2004; Sammartino & Palmer, 2012).

The significance of being different from one's contemporaries is compatible with theories of aesthetics that see aesthetic appreciation as the outcome of contrastive explanations that compare the respective values of a set of artworks (Stecker, 2003). Furthermore, the interpersonal context of an artwork makes people pay attention to and inquire about the intentions of the artist (Bullot & Reber, 2013). For instance, a nonrealistic artwork usually contains features that are difficult to process, and this lack of processing fluency may undermine the viewers' understanding and appreciation of the artwork (Reber et al., 1998, 2004; Wiersema, Van der Schalk, & Van Kleef, 2012). A nonrealistic artwork that is presented among realistic artworks, however, may prompt viewers to quest into the artist's reasons for adopting a deviant style and thus to infer the artist's will to propose novel means of expression. In other words, the context of the artwork may lead people to make sense of the deviance through their inferences about the artist's will-power (Stamkou & Van Kleef, 2014). Suggestive empirical support for the role of context in shaping the appreciation of artworks comes from a study showing that a mismatch between the

style of a focal design object and the style of contextual design objects increased the perceived value of the focal object (Blijlevens, Gemser, & Mugge, 2012).

In keeping with these theoretical accounts and empirical findings, we propose that artists who deviate from their contemporaries' styles (i.e., interpersonal artistic deviance) are perceived as more impactful than artists who follow their contemporaries' styles, because their decision to deviate indicates that their choice of style is dictated by their own will rather than by external influences.

Considering Artistic Deviance in Its Historical Context

A work of art is an artifact that is embedded in a historical context. Accordingly, modern theories of aesthetics appeal to beholders' sensitivity to historical contexts and the evolution of such contexts to explain art appreciation (Bulot, 2009; Bulot & Reber, 2013; Davies, 2004; Levinson, 2007). Bulot and Reber (2013), for instance, introduced a psycho-historical framework of art appreciation that posits that individuals' responses to artworks rely not only on the visible traces of the artwork but also on their knowledge about the historical context in which the artist worked.

By the same token, historical contingencies play an essential role in what people consider deviant artistic work. Examples of deviant movements in different eras showcase that the definition of artistic deviance has changed through the ages. Dutch Masters, for instance, dared to show the imperfections of life by depicting their subjects the way they really looked rather than beautified; Cubists created the illusion of three-dimensional forms by depicting their subjects from a multitude of viewpoints rather than a single viewpoint; and Futurists captured the rush of industrialization by depicting their subjects in a dynamic rather than static manner. Proponents of these movements were all considered deviants in their era because they led to an artistic development by straying away from tradition. These examples demonstrate that a proper understanding of deviant art requires that one consider the historical evolution of art movements in a given culture (Bulot & Reber, 2013; Leder et al., 2004; Levinson, 2007).

In Western cultures, popular styles have changed throughout the centuries, with realistic forms of art mostly being the norm till approximately the second half of the 19th century. This is not to say that painting before that time-point aimed exclusively and entirely at the imitation of reality, as there are examples of artworks that did not aim at a veridical representation of natural objects before that time (Gombrich, 1985). However, the link with nature provided some kind of anchorage in western painting up until the rise of nonrealistic movements.¹ By the end of the 19th century most of the movements that rose to prominence rejected the study of natural appearances (Gombrich, 1995). Along other historical events, the shift from realistic to nonrealistic forms of art in western cultures coincides with the spread of photography, which was then seen as a rival to painting (Rosenblum, 1989). Painters of that era were therefore motivated to explore alternatives to the representation of nature, which spurred new artistic developments (Gombrich, 1995).

The example of nonrealistic art illustrates that artistic deviance is effective when it leads to some kind of artistic progress. On the contrary, artistic deviance that does not move art forward or is backward-looking is less likely to prevail. This possibility reso-

nates with evolutionary theories on the accumulation of cultural information. Given that innovations build on previously existing structures (Voigtländer & Voth, 2012), cultural information grows in complexity over time, and so cultural evolution moves like a ratchet—it only goes forward and never slips back (Tennie, Call, & Tomasello, 2009). Similarly, historical accounts of evolution suggest that deviant ideas are culture's engines that are responsible for the dynamism of human species because they compel us to think, reevaluate, and criticize (Harari, 2015). Apparently the same happens with the evolution of art movements, because artistic development over time is the result of an unquenchable thirst for novelty (Martindale, 1990). As such, artists who embrace older art styles might be seen as retrogressive and therefore less impactful.

Our historical analysis suggests that realistic art should be considered less progressive than nonrealistic art because realism appeared earlier than nonrealism, which only prevailed in the latest centuries. Given that deviance is valued when it is progressive, we expected that the hypothesized intrapersonal and interpersonal artistic deviance effects would occur only if the artist deviates toward a progressive movement, such as nonrealism. In other words, we expected that deviating from realism to nonrealism fuels stronger perceptions of impact than deviating from nonrealism to realism because of the historical evolution of art movements in Western cultures.²

Overview of Model and Hypotheses

In the current research, deviance and impact are conceptualized within the domain of art, and our findings should thus be interpreted in the context of artistic judgments. From now on, we therefore use the terms "intrapersonal deviance" and "interpersonal deviance" to refer to deviance in the artistic domain. Based on the theorizing above, we advance five interrelated hypotheses, including a generic mechanism that drives the effects of artistic deviance.

First, because artists are judged against the background of their own previous work, we hypothesize that artists who deviate from their previous means of expression by adopting distinct styles within their career are seen as more impactful than artists who consistently follow a certain style (*intrapersonal deviance effect*).

¹ Artwork styles that aim to render a naturalistic representation of the external world (e.g., realism, symbolism, romanticism) are grouped under the term "realistic." In contrast, artwork styles that depart from a naturalistic representation of the world (e.g., impressionism, cubism, abstract expressionism) are defined as "nonrealistic."

² Given that cultural evolution relies on the pursuit of novelty, artistic movements that do not move art forward (e.g., realism in present-day western cultures) might be seen as retrogressive and thereby less impactful (Tennie et al., 2009; Voigtländer & Voth, 2012). We therefore expected that artists who adopt a rather progressive style, such as nonrealism, will be seen as more impactful than artists who adopt a rather retrogressive style, such as realism. We tested this idea in three studies that we report in the [Online Supplemental Material](#). First, we showed that artists who made nonrealistic artworks were considered more influential than artists who made realistic artworks because nonrealistic artists' work was perceived to be more unconventional (Study S1). Second, we demonstrated that artworks made in an artist's idiosyncratic period that is characterized by nonrealistic elements are valued higher and attract people's attention more than artworks made in an artist's academic or transitional periods, which are mostly characterized by realistic elements. This effect was replicated among museum visitors (Study S2a) and university students (Study S2b).

Second, we hypothesize that the effect of intrapersonal deviance is more pronounced if the artist's style transitioned toward a progressive style, for instance, from realism to nonrealism rather than the other way around (*moderation of the intrapersonal deviance effect by progressiveness*).

Third, given that artists are evaluated in the context of their contemporaries' work, we propose that artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style are considered more impactful than artists who follow their contemporaries' style (*interpersonal deviance effect*).

Fourth, we hypothesize that the effect of interpersonal deviance is more pronounced when artists deviate toward a progressive style, for example, when they deviate from a predominant realistic style by using nonrealistic means of expression rather than when they deviate from a predominant nonrealistic style by using realistic means of expression (*moderation of the interpersonal deviance effect by progressiveness*).

Fifth, we propose that the effects of deviance on artistic impact are driven by observers' inferences about the artists' intentionality in their choice of style. Namely, deviant artists may be perceived as more impactful because they deviated from their previous style or other artists' style out of personal will-power (*mediation of the intrapersonal and interpersonal deviance effects through perceived will-power*).

In conjunction, we hypothesize that artists who deviate from the norms they established during their career (intrapersonal deviance) as well as the norms that their contemporaries have established (interpersonal deviance) will be perceived as more impactful than artists who follow the various types of norms. Importantly, artistic deviance at either level is more effective when it is imbued with progressiveness. Our theoretical model is visualized in Figure 1.

Overview of Studies

We conducted six studies to test our theoretical model. We operationalized artistic deviance by letting the focal artwork be similar to or different from its intrapersonal or interpersonal context. Artworks were either of realistic or nonrealistic styles. We used the discernible differences between realistic and nonrealistic art to visualize deviance. We assumed that the contrast between these two styles would make the operationalization of deviance accessible to our sample, which consisted of western individuals

with no particular expertise in art. In most studies, we operationalized progressiveness of deviance by letting the focal artwork be nonrealistic while context artworks were realistic. This operationalization was premised on the assumption that nonrealistic styles would be considered more progressive than realistic styles. We tested this assumption in Study 1, in which we examined people's beliefs about the progressiveness of realistic and nonrealistic styles. Next, Studies 2 and 3 focused on intrapersonal deviance (i.e., deviance from one's own previous style), whether in the direction of realism or nonrealism. Studies 4 and 5 focused on interpersonal deviance (i.e., deviance from the predominant style of one's contemporaries), whether in the direction of realism or nonrealism. To establish that the effects of artistic deviance are not confounded with abstractness that was common among all artworks of nonrealistic style used in Studies 2 to 5, we further examined interpersonal deviance in Study 6 by operationalizing the motif of the artwork (triangle vs. rectangular) while keeping the style of the artworks constant across conditions, that is, non-realistic. The deviance operationalization in Study 6 allowed us to address the alternative possibility that the predicted effect of artistic deviance is attributable to other positive qualities (rather than artistic deviance) that are associated with the artist's expressive means.

Across studies, we used different ecologically valid operationalizations of artistic impact that were informed by prominent definitions of impact in the field of art (Schönfeld & Reinstaller, 2007). According to these definitions, impactful artists are influential (*influence*), and produce artworks that are highly priced (*valuation*) and catch people's attention (*attention*). We assessed the influence aspect by measuring the extent to which an artist is perceived to be influential across all studies that tested the effects of deviance (Studies 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6). We assessed the valuation aspect by measuring the estimated price of an artist's work (Study 2) or intentions to purchase merchandise depicting the artist's work (Study 5). Finally, we measured the attention aspect by investigating engagement of visual attention while looking at the artwork (Study 5). An overview of the artistic impact operationalizations per study is presented in Table 1.

All studies started with a brief introduction, after which participants indicated their participation consent. Participants were then presented with high-quality copies of original artworks, and they indicated whether they thought the artists would gain (or had gained) impact in terms of influence, valuation, and attention. We also estimated individuals' beliefs about the artist's will-power (Studies 3, 5, and 6) to examine whether inferences about the intentionality of the artist's actions could explain the effects of deviance on the various indices of artistic impact. Additional measures that functioned as manipulation checks, control variables, and alternative mediators are described in the method section of each study. The artworks used in each study were retrieved from an online visual art encyclopedia (www.wikiart.org).

We used G*Power 3 (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang, & Buchner, 2007) to calculate the required sample size of our studies. In the power analyses we used the cumulative effect size of previous studies to compute the required sample of each follow-up study to achieve statistical power of at least .80, given alpha level of .05. When there were no previous studies available or there was no indication in the literature of the size of the hypothesized effect, we used contemporary conventions regarding number of participants per

Figure 1. Theoretical model illustrating that deviating from the style previously employed by the artist (intrapersonal deviance) or the style currently employed by the artist's contemporaries (interpersonal deviance) enhances an artist's impact, especially when artistic deviance is directed toward a progressive style.

Table 1
Sample Characteristics and Operationalization of Artistic Impact per Study

Study	Sample		<i>f</i>	Age		Gender				Artistic impact operationalization
	Required <i>N</i> ^a	Actual <i>N</i>		<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)	Range	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	
1	—	124	.27	36.09 (11.64)	19–72	55	69	0	0	—
2	96	116	.25	35.12 (15.98)	18–78	57	59	0	0	Perceived influence
3	122	136	.18	23.00 (6.85)	18–65	41	95	0	0	Price estimation
4	168	172	.19	35.88 (11.92)	18–75	95	76	1	0	Perceived influence
5	181	227	.18	20.46 (3.01)	18–44	75	138	1	13	Perceived influence
										Purchase intention
										Visual attention
6	181	218	.55	38.62 (12.64)	18–84	85	133	0	0	Perceived influence

Note. In Study 5, age and gender data from 13 participants were not recorded. Perceived influence and price estimation correlated positively in Study 2, $r(112) = .33, p < .001$, and Study 5, $r(227) = .33, p < .001$. Visual attention correlated positively with purchase intention, $r(227) = .15, p = .027$, and showed no significant correlation with perceived influence, although their relationship was in the predicted direction, $r(227) = .11, p = .090$.

^a In the power analyses we used the cumulative effect size of previous studies to compute the required sample of each follow-up study. The required sample size of Study 2 was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1 ($f = .31$) and S2a ($f = .50$), whereas Study S2b's effect size ($f = .25$) was not taken into account because the data for this study were collected in parallel to the Study 2 data. Furthermore, the effect size of Studies S3 ($f = .25$) and S4 ($f = .20$) were not included in the power analyses because these studies were conducted after the studies reported in the main text.

condition (Lakens & Evers, 2014). In studies where there were multiple artistic impact variables we calculated the average effect size across variables. Study 1 investigated progressiveness, and so it was not included in the estimation of the cumulative effect size of the rest of the studies that investigated artistic impact. Data collection stopped when we had reached at least the required sample size calculated in the power analysis. In all studies the actual sample size was slightly larger than the required sample size because of compensation for anticipated drop-out (Zhou & Fishbach, 2016). Table 1 gives an overview of the actual and required sample size, as well as the effect size of each study. In the studies below we report all relevant measures and manipulations.

Besides the studies reported in the current paper, we carried out five additional studies (S1, S2a, S2b, S3, and S4) that tested effects not focal to this paper. All of these studies replicated our main effect of interest. Information about these studies is provided in the Online Supplemental Material.

Study 1

The main tenet of our model is that artistic deviance should enhance an artist's impact, especially when the artist deviates by means of a progressive style. In light of the historical evolution of styles in Western cultures, we assumed that nonrealistic styles are thought of as more progressive than realistic styles. In Study 1 we set out to substantiate this assumption and lay the groundwork for the ensuing studies, in which progressiveness of deviance is operationalized as the artist's choice for a nonrealistic style (i.e., Studies 3, 4, and 5).

Method

Because existing literature provided no indication of the size of the hypothesized effect we could expect in Study 1, we aimed for a large sample to ensure we would achieve sufficient statistical power. We recruited 124 participants through Prolific Academic (www.prolific.ac). Participants were citizens of the U.K. with an

Asian (6), African American (3), or Caucasian (115) background. The study was administered as an online questionnaire and participants were compensated with money (see Table 1 for further sample details). Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they find realistic and nonrealistic art progressive on 7-point bipolar scales ranging from 1 = *retrogressive* to 7 = *progressive*. Furthermore, participants were asked to estimate the time-point when painters started making realistic and nonrealistic artworks on 12-point Likert scales ranging from the 10th to the 21st century.

Results

A paired-samples *t* test with progressiveness ratings of realistic and nonrealistic styles as paired variables showed that nonrealistic styles ($M = 5.16, SD = 1.45$) are considered more progressive than realistic styles ($M = 3.91, SD = 1.52$), $t(123) = -6.05, p < .001, d = -0.54$.

Another paired-samples *t* test showed that participants dated the beginning of realistic art ($M = 5.37, SD = 3.01$) earlier than the beginning of nonrealistic art ($M = 8.25, SD = 2.96$), $t(123) = -8.96, p < .001, d = -0.80$.

Discussion

These results demonstrate that participants generally consider nonrealistic styles more progressive than realistic styles. The finding that realistic art is dated earlier than nonrealistic art lends additional credence to the idea that nonrealistic art is perceived as more progressive than realistic art. The perceived progressiveness of nonrealistic styles was expected to moderate the effects of intrapersonal and interpersonal deviance on impact in Studies 3, 4, and 5, where the deviance operationalization entailed the adoption of a different style (either realistic or nonrealistic) than adopted previously by the focal artist (intrapersonal deviance) or by the artist's contemporaries (interpersonal deviance). (In Study 6, where the deviance operationalization did not imply a choice for a

nonrealistic style, deviant artists' impact should not depend on the expressive means by which the artists deviated.)

Study 2

The intrapersonal deviance hypothesis holds that artists who deviate from their previous style are seen as more impactful than artists who consistently follow a certain style. This implies that the evaluation of artists is influenced by whether they switch to an alternative style at some point in their career. The current study tested the intrapersonal deviance effect by investigating whether artists would gain greater impact when their portfolio contains artworks of both realistic and nonrealistic styles (intrapersonal deviance) than when their portfolio contains artworks of only one style (no intrapersonal deviance). We assessed the influence and valuation aspects of artistic impact by measuring perceived influence of the artist and price estimation of the artist's work in an auction.

Method

Sample. The required sample size of Study 2 ($N_R = 96$) was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1 and S2a, whereas study S2b was not taken into account because the data for this study were collected in parallel to the Study 2 data. The actual sample consisted of 116 adults who were recruited in a central train station in Amsterdam and participated in the study on a voluntary basis. The study was administered as a paper-and-pencil questionnaire, which could be completed in English (4 participants) or Dutch. The original Dutch questionnaire was translated into English following the back-translation procedure outlined by Brislin (1986). Further sample details appear in Table 1.

Design, materials, and procedure. Participants were presented with a portfolio that consisted of four paintings and they were told that the artworks were made by the same artist. All artworks were made by Dutch artist Willem De Kooning, apart from one that was made by Graham White, an artist who was inspired by De Kooning's style. We selected paintings from De Kooning because of the stark contrast between his academic period and his abstract expressionism period (Yard, 2007). Participants were randomly assigned to one of three experimental conditions, with the first two being nondeviant and the third one being deviant in terms of showing a departure from the artist's earlier style. That is, the portfolio either included exclusively realistic style artworks (only realistic style), exclusively nonrealistic style artworks (only nonrealistic style), or an equal number of realistic and nonrealistic style artworks (mixed style). In the first condition we used three artworks from De Kooning's academic period and one realistic-style artwork from Graham White, in the second condition we used four artworks from De Kooning's abstract expressionism period, and in the third condition we showed two artworks from each of the previous conditions (see Appendix A and Table 2 for details about the artworks). The artworks were presented on separate pages of the questionnaire in a pseudorandomized order. All artworks were presented in greyscale.

After seeing all artworks, participants rated the artist's perceived influence on a scale that consisted of three items ("I think this artist . . . has influenced his contemporaries," ". . . made a great contribution to art," and ". . . is famous"). The items were an-

swered on 7-point Likert scales ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 7 = *strongly agree* ($\alpha = .83$). They then estimated the artist's work by filling out an amount in euro they thought one of the artist's paintings would be auctioned for.

Results

We tested the effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance on perceived influence and price estimation by means of ANOVAs. We also conducted a planned contrast to compare the difference between the deviant condition (mixed style) and the nondeviant conditions (only realistic-style and only nonrealistic style). Descriptives for perceived influence and price estimation are displayed in Table 3, and test statistics are reported in text below.

Perceived influence. ANOVA showed a main effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance on perceived influence, $F(2, 113) = 7.18, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .11$. Specifically, the artist was considered more influential when his portfolio included artworks of mixed styles than when his portfolio included artworks of a single style, $t(113) = -3.55, p < .001, d = -0.67$ (see left panel of Figure 2).

For exploratory purposes we examined the difference between the deviance condition and each of the no-deviance conditions separately. These analyses showed that the artist was considered more influential when his portfolio included artworks of mixed styles than when his portfolio included exclusively realistic style artworks, $t(113) = -3.73, p < .001, d = -0.70$, or exclusively nonrealistic style artworks, $t(113) = -2.39, p = .019, d = -0.45$.

Price estimation. Four participants did not fill out the price estimation question, leaving a sample of 112 participants. Because the distribution of price estimation scores was positively skewed (skewness = 10.40, $SE = 0.23$), we applied a logarithmic transformation that resulted in a normalized distribution (skewness = 0.75, $SE = 0.23$). ANOVA indicated that artist's intrapersonal deviance influenced respondents' price estimation, $F(2, 109) = 3.33, p = .039, \eta_p^2 = .06$. In line with the intrapersonal deviance hypothesis, participants estimated the artist's work higher when his portfolio included artworks of mixed styles than when his portfolio included artworks of a single style, $t(109) = -2.33, p = .021, d = -0.45$ (see right panel of Figure 2).

Again, we explored the difference between the deviance condition and each of the no-deviance conditions. These analyses indicated that the artist's work was valued higher when his portfolio included artworks of mixed styles than when his portfolio included exclusively nonrealistic style artworks, $t(109) = -2.57, p = .012, d = -0.70$, but not when his portfolio included exclusively realistic style artworks, $t(109) = -1.45, p = .149, d = -0.28$.

Discussion

The results of Study 2 indicate that artists are considered more influential and their work is valued higher when they use both realistic and nonrealistic forms of expression than when they use only one form of expression. These findings provide initial evidence that deviant artists are better off if they also produce artworks of a less progressive style (i.e., realism), presumably because these artworks readily testify that the artist's choice to depart

Table 2
Details About the Artworks Used in Studies 2 to 6

Artist name	Artwork title	Date of artwork production
Study 2		
Willem de Kooning	Still Life (Bowl, Pitcher, and Jug) ^a	1921
Willem de Kooning	Portrait of Elaine ^a	1940–1941
Willem de Kooning	Untitled (Still Life) ^a	1916
Graham White	Drawings, Winter–Spring ^b	2010
Willem de Kooning	Untitled (The Cow Jumps Over the Moon) ^a	1937–1938
Willem de Kooning	Charcoal Drawing ^a	circa 1970–1980
Willem de Kooning	Secretary ^a	1948
Willem de Kooning	Figure ^a	1949
Study 3		
Pablo Picasso	Bull (plate II) ^a	1945
Pablo Picasso	Bull (plate III) ^a	1945
Pablo Picasso	Bull (plate VII) ^a	1946
Pablo Picasso	Bull (plate IX) ^a	1946
Study 4		
Andrew Wyeth	Braids (Helga Terstorf) ^a	1979
Pablo Picasso	Portrait of the Artist's Mother ^a	1896
Boris Kustodiev	Portrait of a Woman	1920
Salvador Dalí	Portrait of Katharina Cornell ^a	1951
Pablo Picasso	Portrait of Jacqueline Roque With Her Hands Crossed ^a	1954
Francis Picabia	Ridens ^a	1929
Study 5		
Edvard Munch	Self-Portrait	1881–1882
Paul Feeley	Portrait of Samuel L. M. Barlow	1932
Jamie Wyeth	Portrait of Andrew Wyeth	1969
Thomas Cowperthwait Eakins	Portrait of Samuel Murray	1889
Richard Whitney	Michael J. McGivney	Unknown
Juan Gris	Portrait of Pablo Picasso	1912
Nadezhda Udaltsova	Cubist Portrait	1915
Lyubov Popova	Sketch for Portrait	1889
Pablo Picasso	William Uhde	1910
Pablo Picasso	Portrait of Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler	1910
Study 6		
Unknown artists	Untitled artworks ^c	Unknown

Note. All artworks reproduced in the article are reproduced with permission, unless the artist's rights are in public domain (e.g., Boris Kustodiev). Copyright on works of visual artists affiliated to the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) organization (i.e., Willem de Kooning, Pablo Picasso, Andrew Wyeth, Salvador Dalí, and Francis Picabia) has been arranged with Pictoright in Amsterdam. Copyright on Graham White's work has been arranged with the artist himself.

^a Pictoright Amsterdam, 2018. ^b © Graham White, 2018. ^c Artist names, artwork titles, and year of artwork production are unknown because these artworks were derived from Internet service providers (e.g., Pinterest).

from a previous style was a product of the artist's free will rather than lack of skill (Bray et al., 1982; Hollander, 1958).

Although these findings are consistent with our theoretical framework, the conclusions that can be drawn from this study are limited by three interrelated issues. First, the results leave open an alternative interpretation in terms of perceived competence or versatility. That is, artists who deviate from their previous style by employing an alternative style may be perceived as more skillful or more versatile than artists who stick with one style.³ Second, the current study does not provide evidence for the underlying mechanism that drives the effect of intrapersonal deviance, which according to our theorizing relates to viewers' inferences about the artist's intentional shift to alternative means of expression (rather than perceptions of competence or versatility). Third, the current results do not speak to the question of whether artists are better off endorsing a progressive style before or after a retrogressive one. Such temporal variations

may have implications for how an artist's deviance is interpreted (e.g., to what extent it is seen as a sign of will-power). These limitations were addressed in Study 3.

³ Although artists who can master more than one style (intrapersonal deviance) would be naturally considered more competent than artists who master only one style (no intrapersonal deviance), perceived competence was not expected to explain the effects of intrapersonal deviance on impact because, according to our theory, the effect of deviance was driven by the inference that the artist made a willful choice for an alternative style. In Study 2 we assessed perceived competence of the artist to rule out the explanation that the effect of intrapersonal deviance on impact would be accounted for by competence. As expected, results showed that the artist was considered more competent when his portfolio included artworks of mixed styles than when his portfolio included artworks of a single style, but perceived competence did not mediate the effect of intrapersonal deviance on perceived influence.

Table 3

Descriptives of Perceived Influence and Price Estimation Across Conditions of Artist's Intrapersonal Deviance in Study 2

Measure	Artist's intrapersonal deviance: no (only realistic style)		Artist's intrapersonal deviance: no (only non-realistic style)		Artist's intrapersonal deviance: yes (mixed style)		Total ^a	
	<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)	95% CI	<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)	95% CI	<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)	95% CI	<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)	95% CI
Perceived influence	3.82 (1.22)	[3.47, 4.16]	4.14 (1.05)	[3.80, 4.48]	4.72 (0.91)	[4.38, 5.05]	4.23 (1.12)	[4.03, 4.42]
Price estimation	3.68 (0.26)	[3.53, 3.82]	3.57 (0.40)	[3.43, 3.71]	3.83 (0.58)	[3.69, 3.96]	3.69 (0.45)	[3.61, 3.77]

Note. CI = confidence interval.

^a Average descriptives of artist's intrapersonal deviance conditions.

Study 3

The current study investigated a qualification of the intrapersonal deviance hypothesis, namely that artists gain more impact when their work evolves from a less progressive style to a more progressive one rather than in the opposite order. The logic underlying this prediction is that artists who produce traditional artworks early on in their career and then stray away from traditions demonstrate that their style change is driven by a deliberate choice to broaden the horizon of their artistic expression rather than by a shortage of technical skills. To test this idea, we crossed a manipulation of intrapersonal deviance similar to that employed in Study 2 with a manipulation of the artist's early style, so that the artist who deviated either deviated in the direction of a progressive style (i.e., nonrealism) or in the direction of a retrogressive style (i.e., realism). Furthermore, the design of Study 3 allows us to examine whether perceived competence or versatility explain the interactive effect of intrapersonal deviance and progressiveness of deviance on artistic impact. Artists who deviate toward a progressive style should be seen as more willful than artists who deviate toward a retrogressive style, because the artists' choice to switch to a progressive style indicates their will to develop an autonomous artistic path. At the same time, artists who deviate toward a progressive style should be considered equally competent and versatile as artists who deviate toward a retrogressive style, be-

cause in both cases the artist masters the same type and number of styles. We also investigated whether the effect of intrapersonal deviance on artistic impact could be explained by individuals' perceptions of the artist's will-power to shape their individual artistic path. Finally, we included a manipulation check of intrapersonal deviance. We investigated the above predictions by focusing on the influence aspect of artistic impact.

Method

Sample. The required sample size of Study 3 ($N_R = 122$) was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1, S2a, S2b, and 2. The actual sample consisted of 136 students from the University of Amsterdam who participated in the study in exchange for course credits. Participants were recruited via the university's online system (www.test.uva.nl). Further sample details are provided in Table 1.

Design, materials, and procedure. Participants were randomly assigned to a 2 (artist's intrapersonal deviance: no vs. yes) $\times$ 2 (artist's early style: realistic vs. nonrealistic) between-subjects experimental design. They were presented with a portfolio of two paintings made by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. We selected two realistic and two nonrealistic artworks from Picasso's bull series, which consists of 11 lithographs that show the development of an artwork from a realistic style to a nonrealistic style (Daix,

Figure 2. Perceived influence and price estimation as a function of artist's intrapersonal deviance in Study 2. Bars represent means with their associated standard errors.

1994). Participants saw two artworks next to each other, and they were told that the artist made the left-side artwork at an earlier stage of his career and the right-side artwork at a later stage. The artworks were presented in their original color shade (see [Appendix B](#) and [Table 2](#) for details about the artworks). In the no-intrapersonal-deviance condition the two artworks represented the same style, whereas in the intrapersonal-deviance condition the two artworks represented different styles.

We then measured the extent to which the artist was considered influential with the same scale used in Study 2 ($\alpha = .90$). Next we measured the artist's perceived will-power with the items "I think this artist . . . has a personal artistic vision," ". . . thinks out-of-the-box," and ". . . is open-minded" ($\alpha = .83$). We also asked participants whether they perceived the later artwork's style to deviate from the earlier artwork's style to check the manipulation of intrapersonal deviance. Perceived intrapersonal deviance was measured with the items "These two paintings represent two different artistic styles" and the reverse-scored "These two paintings represent two similar artistic styles," $r(136) = .35, p < .001$. All items were answered on 7-point Likert scales ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 7 = *strongly agree*.

Results

We tested the effects of artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style on perceived intrapersonal deviance, perceived influence, and perceived will-power with three two-way ANOVAs, which we followed up with simple effects analyses. Descriptives for perceived intrapersonal deviance, perceived influence, and perceived will-power are displayed in [Table 4](#), and test statistics are reported in text below.

Perceived intrapersonal deviance (manipulation check). There was a main effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance, indicating that the later artwork's style was perceived to deviate from the earlier artwork's style to a greater extent when the two artworks represented different styles than when they represented the same style, $F(1, 132) = 71.85, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .35$. There was no main effect of artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 1.63, p = .204, \eta_p^2 = .01$. There was no significant interaction effect between artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style, which indicated that the manipulation of artist's intrapersonal deviance was orthogonal to the manipulation of artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 0.68, p = .411, \eta_p^2 = .01$.

Perceived influence. There was a main effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance, indicating that an artist who deviated from his previous style appeared more influential than an artist who followed his previous style, $F(1, 132) = 4.51, p = .036, \eta_p^2 = .03$. There was no main effect of artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 0.15, p = .701, \eta_p^2 < .01$. As expected, there was an interaction between artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 9.57, p = .002, \eta_p^2 = .07$. Probing the interaction showed that an artist who deviated from his previous style was considered more influential when his early work was realistic rather than nonrealistic, $F(1, 132) = 6.05, p = .015, \eta_p^2 = .05$; perceived influence of an artist who did not deviate from his previous style did not depend on his early artwork style, $F(1, 132) = 3.67, p = .058, \eta_p^2 = .03$ (see left panel of [Figure 3](#)).

Perceived will-power. There was a main effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance, indicating that an artist who deviated from his previous style was perceived as having greater will-power than an artist who did not deviate from his previous style, $F(1, 132) = 5.31, p = .023, \eta_p^2 = .04$. There was no main effect of artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 0.06, p = .802, \eta_p^2 < .01$. There was an interaction effect between artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style, $F(1, 132) = 10.35, p = .002, \eta_p^2 = .07$. Probing the interaction showed that an artist who deviated from his previous style was thought of as having greater will-power when his earlier work was realistic than nonrealistic, $F(1, 132) = 6.01, p = .016, \eta_p^2 = .05$. An artist who consistently followed an earlier nonrealistic style was perceived as having greater will-power than an artist who consistently followed an earlier realistic style, $F(1, 132) = 4.40, p = .038, \eta_p^2 = .03$ (see right panel of [Figure 3](#)). This finding likely reflects the greater impact of progressive styles, such as nonrealism, as compared with retrogressive styles, such as realism (see Studies S1, S2a, and S2b in the [supplemental material](#)).

Table 4

Descriptives of Perceived Intrapersonal Deviance, Perceived Influence, and Perceived Willpower Across Conditions of Artist's Intrapersonal Deviance and Artist's Early Style in Study 3

Measure	Artist's intrapersonal deviance: no		Artist's intrapersonal deviance: yes		Total ^a	
	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI
Perceived intrapersonal deviance						
Artist's early style: realistic	3.81 (1.04)	[3.42, 4.20]	5.31 (1.04)	[4.92, 5.70]	4.56 (1.28)	[4.29, 4.83]
Artist's early style: non-realistic	3.40 (1.28)	[3.01, 3.79]	5.22 (1.19)	[4.83, 5.61]	4.31 (1.53)	[4.04, 4.58]
Total ^b	3.60 (1.18)	[3.33, 3.88]	5.26 (1.11)	[4.99, 5.54]	4.43 (1.41)	[4.24, 4.63]
Perceived influence						
Artist's early style: realistic	3.78 (1.44)	[3.31, 4.26]	5.05 (1.05)	[4.57, 5.53]	4.42 (1.41)	[4.08, 4.76]
Artist's early style: non-realistic	4.44 (1.49)	[3.96, 4.92]	4.21 (1.61)	[3.73, 4.69]	4.32 (1.54)	[3.98, 4.66]
Total ^b	4.11 (1.49)	[3.77, 4.45]	4.63 (1.41)	[4.29, 4.97]	4.37 (1.47)	[4.13, 4.61]
Perceived willpower						
Artist's early style: realistic	4.12 (1.42)	[3.69, 4.54]	5.30 (1.17)	[4.88, 5.73]	4.71 (1.42)	[4.41, 5.01]
Artist's early style: non-realistic	4.75 (1.23)	[4.33, 5.18]	4.56 (1.17)	[4.13, 4.98]	4.66 (1.20)	[4.36, 4.96]
Total ^b	4.44 (1.36)	[4.14, 4.74]	4.93 (1.22)	[4.63, 5.23]	4.68 (1.31)	[4.47, 4.90]

Note. CI = confidence interval.

^a Average descriptives of artist's intrapersonal deviance conditions. ^b Average descriptives of artist's early style conditions.

Figure 3. Perceived influence and perceived will-power as a function of artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style in Study 3. Bars represent means with their associated standard errors.

Moderated mediation. To test whether the interactive effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style on perceived influence was mediated by perceived will-power, we specified a bootstrapped moderated mediation model with artist's early style and intrapersonal deviance as predictors, perceived will-power as mediator, and perceived influence as outcome variable (Hayes, 2012; Model 7 in PROCESS, 1000 reiterations). Artist's early style was coded as -1 for realistic and 1 for nonrealistic, artist's intrapersonal deviance was coded as -1 for nondeviant and 1 for deviant, and perceived will-power was centered at its mean. This model was significant with a point estimate of -0.56 , $SE = 0.17$, 95% CI $[-0.92, -0.23]$. Analysis of the simple effects indicated that an artist who deviated from his previous style was perceived as having stronger will-power when his early artwork represented a realistic rather than a nonrealistic style, and this will-power perception consequently enhanced the artist's perceived influence (-0.30 , $SE = 0.12$, 95% CI $[-0.55, -0.09]$). Furthermore, an artist who followed his earlier nonrealistic style was perceived as having stronger will-power than an artist who followed his earlier realistic style, and this will-power perception enhanced the artist's perceived influence (0.26 , $SE = 0.13$, 95% CI $[0.001, 0.52]$).

Discussion

Study 3 indicates that artists who deviate from their past style are seen as more influential than artists who follow the same style throughout their careers, especially when artists depart from a rather retrogressive style (realism) by adopting a rather progressive style (nonrealism). The mediation analysis identified an underlying process that explains this effect: Artists who deviate in the direction of a progressive style are seen as having stronger will-power, which enhances individuals' perceptions of the artist's influence. Additionally, the design and results of Study 3 refute the alternative account that perceived competence or versatility explain the interactive effect of intrapersonal deviance and progressiveness of deviance on artistic impact, because the artist in both deviance conditions should be considered equally competent and versatile.⁴

In line with our hypothesis, Studies 2 and 3 jointly indicate that artistic impact depends on the deviance showcased in an artist's portfolio and the direction in which an artist's style develops during his or her career. These studies indicate that people evaluate deviant artistic work in the context of the artist's previous work, which is a means of gaining insight into the artist's personal history and intentions.

As noted in the Introduction, judgments of artists' work are not only influenced by their own artistic histories but also by their contemporaries' work, which shapes what is considered the tradition in a given era. In Studies 4 and 5 we investigated how artists who deviate from the traditional style of their era—what we termed interpersonal deviance—may gain impact.

Study 4

The style endorsed by an artist's contemporaries forms the context within which a deviant artwork is judged. The artwork's context highlights the deviant artist's intention to introduce new means of expression. We therefore expected that artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style would have more impact than artists who follow the predominant style. However, the interpersonal deviance effect should be more pronounced when artists

⁴ Given that our hypothesized intrapersonal deviance effects were moderated by progressiveness of artistic deviance in Study 3, we expected that perceived will-power—rather than perceived competence or versatility—is the mechanism underlying the effect of intrapersonal deviance on impact. We therefore assessed perceived will-power as well as perceived competence and perceived versatility as alternative mediators. There were no main or interaction effects of intrapersonal deviance and contemporaries' style on perceived competence. There was a main effect of intrapersonal deviance on perceived versatility indicating that artists who deviate from their previous style are seen as more versatile than artists who follow their previous style; there was no main effect of artist's early style and no interaction effect between intrapersonal deviance and artist's early style on perceived versatility. A moderated mediation model that included perceived competence, perceived will-power, and perceived versatility as competing mediators showed that only perceived will-power mediated the effects of intrapersonal deviance on perceived influence.

deviate from realism by making nonrealistic art than when they deviate from nonrealism by making realistic art, because the former form of deviance reveals the artist's will to introduce a style that could move art forward whereas the latter form of deviance may be seen as retrogressive (Tennie et al., 2009). The current study tested the interpersonal deviance hypothesis by investigating whether an artist would gain greater impact when his artwork appears among contemporaries' artworks that represent a different style than among contemporaries' artworks that represent the same style. Furthermore, contemporaries' style was manipulated to be realistic or nonrealistic so that the focal artist's deviance would be directed toward a progressive or a retrogressive style (i.e., nonrealism or realism, respectively). We examined the above predictions by assessing the influence aspect of artistic impact.

Method

Sample. The required sample size of Study 4 ($N_R = 168$) was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1, S2a, S2b, 2, and 3. The actual sample consisted of 172 American citizens who were recruited through Amazon's mechanical Turk (www.mturk.com). The study was administered as an online questionnaire and participants were compensated with money (see Table 1 for further sample details).

Design, materials, and procedure. Participants were randomly assigned to a 2 (artist's interpersonal deviance: no vs. yes) $\times$ 2 (contemporaries' style: realistic vs. nonrealistic) between-subjects experimental design. Participants viewed three artworks of the same or different style, and they were told that all artworks dated from the beginning of the 20th century (see Appendix C and Table 2 for details about the artworks). We presented this information so that the various artists would be perceived as contemporaries. The artworks were presented in their original color shade. Participants were then asked to evaluate the second artwork and the artist who made it (the focal artist). All artworks depicted female portraits made by different artists, except for the focal artworks that were both made by the same artist (i.e., Picasso). After showing each artwork to participants, we measured perceived influence with the same scale used in the previous studies ($\alpha = .80$).

Results

We tested the effects of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style on perceived influence with a 2-way ANOVA. We followed up these analyses with simple effects analyses to test the effect of contemporaries' style on the perception of deviant and nondeviant artists. Descriptives are displayed in Table 5, and test statistics are reported in text below.

There was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, with deviant artists being perceived as more influential than nondeviant artists, $F(1, 168) = 6.06, p = .015, \eta_p^2 = .04$. There was no main effect of contemporaries' style, $F(1, 168) = 1.23, p = .270, \eta_p^2 = .01$. As predicted, there was a significant interaction effect between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, $F(1, 168) = 7.13, p = .008, \eta_p^2 = .04$. Probing the interaction revealed that artists who deviated from a predominant realistic style by using nonrealistic means of expression were seen as more influential than artists who deviated from a predominant nonrealistic style by using realistic means of expression, $F(1, 168) = 7.35, p =$

.007, $\eta_p^2 = .04$. Artists who followed a predominant nonrealistic style did not differ from artists who followed a predominant realistic style, $F(1, 168) = 1.31, p = .253, \eta_p^2 = .01$ (see Figure 4).

Discussion

Study 4 demonstrated that artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style are seen as more influential than artists who follow the predominant style. The results additionally showed that deviating in the direction of a progressive style (e.g., nonrealism) is more effective than deviating in the direction of a retrogressive style (e.g., realism). These findings thus provide evidence for the interpersonal deviance effect and its magnifying conditions, but they provide no insight into the underlying processes that drive the effect of interpersonal deviance on perceived artistic impact. This limitation was addressed in Study 5, where we examined whether inferences about the artist's will-power mediate the effect of interpersonal deviance on artistic impact.

Study 5

Study 5 aimed to replicate and extend the findings of Study 4 in several ways. First, we investigated whether the effect of interpersonal deviance on artistic impact operates through perceived will-power, which was the main mediator suggested in previous studies that examined the effects of norm violation on power and status (Bellezza et al., 2014; Van Kleef et al., 2011). Second, we used a greater number of contemporaries' artworks compared with the previous study and changed the position of the focal artwork to see whether we would find similar effects. Third, we included a manipulation check of interpersonal deviance. Finally, we examined whether the effect of interpersonal deviance generalizes to an indirect behavioral measurement of impact, namely visual attention. Because indirect measures are unobtrusive, they can be very insightful as long as they are validated against other direct measures (Palmer, Schloss, & Sammartino, 2013). We therefore also included perceived influence and purchase intention as direct measures of the influence and valuation aspects of artistic impact, respectively.

Method

Sample. The required sample size of Study 5 ($N_R = 181$) was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1, S2a, S2b, 2, 3, and 4. The actual sample consisted of 227 Dutch students from the University of Amsterdam who were recruited via an online platform (www.test.uva.nl) and participated in exchange for course credits (see Table 1 for further sample details).

Design, materials, and procedure. Study 5 employed the same experimental design as Study 4. In Study 5, however, participants viewed five artworks that they were told had all been made at the beginning of the 20th century. Participants were asked to evaluate the last artwork and the artist who had made it (focal artist). All artworks were male portraits with the model facing left. We edited the original artworks to be greyscale, and controlled for luminosity and size to standardize the artworks' visual features (see and Table 2 for details about the artworks).

After participants had viewed each artwork, we measured their perceptions of the artist's will-power, using an adjusted version of the

Table 5

Descriptives of Perceived Influence, Perceived Interpersonal Deviance, Purchase Intention, Visual Attention, and Perceived Willpower Across Conditions of Artist's Interpersonal Deviance and Contemporaries' Style in Studies 4, 5, and 6

Measure	Artist's interpersonal deviance: no		Artist's interpersonal deviance: yes		Total ^a	
	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI	<i>M (SD)</i>	95% CI
Study 4						
Perceived influence						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	4.08 (1.13)	[3.71, 4.46]	5.06 (1.19)	[4.69, 5.43]	4.57 (1.26)	[3.91, 4.84]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	4.38 (1.39)	[4.00, 4.76]	4.34 (1.27)	[3.96, 4.72]	4.36 (1.32)	[4.09, 4.63]
Total ^b	4.23 (1.27)	[3.97, 4.50]	4.71 (1.27)	[4.44, 4.97]	4.47 (1.29)	[4.28, 4.66]
Study 5						
Perceived interpersonal deviance						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	3.92 (1.67)	[3.51, 4.32]	5.71 (1.31)	[5.30, 6.11]	4.80 (1.75)	[4.53, 5.10]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	3.60 (1.68)	[3.18, 4.02]	5.51 (1.60)	[5.09, 5.93]	4.55 (1.89)	[4.26, 4.85]
Total ^b	3.76 (1.68)	[3.47, 4.05]	5.61 (1.45)	[5.32, 5.90]	4.68 (1.82)	[4.48, 4.89]
Perceived influence						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	3.75 (1.21)	[3.44, 4.05]	5.29 (1.10)	[4.98, 5.59]	4.51 (1.39)	[4.30, 4.73]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	4.53 (1.25)	[3.57, 4.19]	3.88 (1.15)	[3.57, 4.19]	4.20 (1.24)	[3.98, 4.43]
Total ^b	4.13 (1.29)	[3.92, 4.36]	4.60 (1.33)	[4.36, 4.80]	4.36 (1.33)	[4.21, 4.52]
Purchase intention						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	2.03 (1.22)	[1.53, 2.20]	3.47 (1.71)	[2.65, 3.32]	2.74 (1.64)	[2.47, 3.03]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	3.04 (1.69)	[2.12, 2.90]	2.80 (1.57)	[2.13, 2.82]	2.92 (1.63)	[2.63, 3.21]
Total ^b	2.52 (1.54)	[2.25, 2.82]	3.14 (1.67)	[2.84, 3.42]	2.83 (1.63)	[2.63, 3.04]
Visual attention						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	0.66 (0.26)	[0.58, 0.74]	0.84 (0.36)	[0.75, 0.92]	0.75 (0.32)	[0.69, 0.81]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	0.64 (0.33)	[0.55, 0.73]	0.61 (0.36)	[0.52, 0.70]	0.62 (0.35)	[0.56, 0.69]
Total ^b	0.65 (0.29)	[0.59, 0.71]	0.73 (0.38)	[0.66, 0.79]	0.69 (0.34)	[0.64, 0.73]
Perceived willpower						
Contemporaries' style: realistic	3.90 (1.15)	[3.62, 4.17]	5.70 (0.87)	[5.42, 5.98]	4.79 (1.37)	[4.60, 5.00]
Contemporaries' style: non-realistic	5.34 (0.90)	[5.05, 5.62]	4.25 (1.33)	[3.97, 4.54]	4.80 (1.26)	[4.59, 5.00]
Total ^b	4.59 (1.26)	[4.42, 4.82]	5.00 (1.33)	[4.78, 5.18]	4.79 (1.31)	[4.66, 4.94]
Study 6						
Perceived interpersonal deviance						
Contemporaries' motif: triangle	2.03 (1.16)	[1.68, 2.37]	3.94 (1.46)	[3.59, 4.28]	2.99 (1.63)	[2.74, 3.23]
Contemporaries' motif: rectangular	2.46 (1.18)	[2.12, 2.81]	3.98 (1.34)	[3.64, 4.33]	3.22 (1.47)	[2.98, 3.47]
Total ^c	2.25 (1.19)	[2.00, 2.49]	3.96 (1.39)	[3.72, 4.20]	3.10 (1.55)	[2.93, 3.28]
Perceived influence						
Contemporaries' motif: triangle	3.77 (1.35)	[3.42, 4.12]	5.25 (1.18)	[4.91, 5.60]	4.52 (1.47)	[4.27, 4.76]
Contemporaries' motif: rectangular	4.10 (1.53)	[3.75, 4.45]	5.46 (1.14)	[5.11, 5.81]	4.77 (1.51)	[4.53, 5.03]
Total ^c	3.94 (1.45)	[3.69, 4.18]	5.35 (1.16)	[5.11, 5.60]	4.65 (1.49)	[4.47, 4.82]
Perceived willpower						
Contemporaries' motif: triangle	4.11 (1.34)	[3.82, 4.40]	5.68 (0.93)	[5.39, 5.96]	4.90 (1.39)	[4.69, 5.10]
Contemporaries' motif: rectangular	4.28 (1.04)	[3.99, 4.56]	5.57 (0.95)	[5.29, 5.86]	4.92 (1.19)	[4.72, 5.13]
Total ^c	4.19 (1.20)	[3.99, 4.40]	5.63 (0.93)	[5.42, 5.83]	4.91 (1.29)	[4.77, 5.05]

Note. CI = confidence interval.

^a Average descriptives of artist's interpersonal deviance conditions. ^b Average descriptives of contemporaries' style conditions. ^c Average descriptives of contemporaries' motif conditions.

volitional capacity scale (Magee, 2009). This scale's focus on interpersonal relations corresponds with the current study's level of analysis. This 6-item scale includes items such as "To what extent . . . does this artist feel free to do what s/he wants in his/her relations with others?" and the reverse-scored ". . . this artist's behavior is driven by the wishes of other people?" ($\alpha = .91$), which were answered on 7-point Likert scales ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 7 = *strongly agree*. Participants then reported on the artist's perceived influence by completing the same scale we used in Studies 2, 3, and 4 ($\alpha = .85$). Next we evaluated purchase intention by asking participants to indicate the extent to which they would buy products depicting the artwork on a scale ranging from 1 = *not at all* to 7 = *very much*. Furthermore, we recorded the time participants spent looking at the focal artwork, which was included as an unobtrusive measure of participants' attention to the artwork (Palmer et al., 2013).

In the end, we asked participants how different they thought the style of the focal artwork was compared with the style of the other artworks, which we used as a manipulation check of interpersonal deviance. The perceived interpersonal deviance item was answered on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 7 = *strongly agree*.

Results

In a series of 2-way ANOVAs we tested the effects of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style on perceived interpersonal deviance, perceived influence, purchase intention, visual attention, and perceived will-power. We followed up each ANOVA with simple effects analyses to investigate the effect of contemporaries' style on the various measures of

Figure 4. Perceived influence as a function of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style in Study 4. Bars represent means with their associated standard errors.

impact of deviant and nondeviant artists. Even though we had no predictions about the main effects of contemporaries' style, we report below whether such effects were observed on each measure (details are provided in the [supplemental material](#)). Descriptives are displayed in [Table 5](#), and test statistics are reported in text below.

Perceived interpersonal deviance (manipulation check).

As expected, there was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, with deviant artists' style being perceived as more distinct from their contemporaries' style as compared with nondeviant artists' style, $F(1, 223) = 78.48, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .26$. There was no main effect of contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 1.51, p = .221, \eta_p^2 = .01$. There was also no interaction between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, which indicated that the manipulation of artist's interpersonal deviance was orthogonal to the manipulation of contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 0.08, p = .779, \eta_p^2 < .01$, as intended.

Perceived influence. There was the predicted main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, with artists who employed a deviant style being perceived as more influential than artists who employed a nondeviant style, $F(1, 223) = 8.01, p = .005, \eta_p^2 = .04$. There was also an unpredicted main effect of contemporaries' style on perceived influence, $F(1, 223) = 3.92, p = .049, \eta_p^2 = .02$ (see [supplemental material](#)). More importantly, we found the predicted interaction effect between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 49.08, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .18$. Probing the interaction revealed that artists who deviated from a predominant realistic style by using nonrealistic means of expression were seen as more influential than artists who deviated from a predominant nonrealistic style by using realistic means of expression, $F(1, 223) = 40.93, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .18$. Artists who followed a predominant nonrealistic style were also seen as more influential than artists who followed a predominant realistic style, $F(1, 223) = 13.12, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .06$ (see top left panel of [Figure 5](#)). Again, this finding likely reflects the greater impact of progressive style, such as nonrealism, as compared with retrogressive styles, such as realism (see Studies S1, S2a, and S2b in the [supplemental material](#)).

Purchase intention. There was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, which showed that participants were more willing to purchase products that depict artworks made by deviant artists than products that depict artworks made by nondeviant artists, $F(1, 223) = 8.38, p = .004, \eta_p^2 = .04$. There was no main effect of contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 0.67, p = .415, \eta_p^2 < .01$. We also observed the predicted interaction between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 16.31, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .07$. Probing the interaction revealed that participants were more willing to purchase products depicting work made by artists who deviated in the direction of nonrealism than products depicting work made by artists who deviated in the direction of realism, $F(1, 223) = 5.43, p = .021, \eta_p^2 = .02$. Participants were also more willing to purchase products depicting work made by artists who followed a predominant nonrealistic style than products depicting work made by artists who followed a predominant realistic style, $F(1, 223) = 13.12, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .06$ (see top right panel of [Figure 5](#)), which may reflect the greater impact of progressive (nonrealistic) art as compared with retrogressive (realistic) art.

Visual attention. Because the distribution of visual attention scores was positively skewed (skewness = 5.66, $SE = 0.16$), we applied a logarithmic transformation that resulted in a normalized distribution (skewness = 0.31, $SE = 0.16$). ANOVA showed a marginal main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, which indicates that artworks made by deviant artists tended to attract more attention than artworks made by nondeviant artists, $F(1, 223) = 2.86, p = .092, \eta_p^2 = .01$. It also showed an unpredicted main effect of contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 8.05, p = .005, \eta_p^2 = .04$ (see [supplemental material](#)). More importantly, results showed the predicted interaction between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 5.77, p = .017, \eta_p^2 = .03$. Simple effects analyses revealed that individuals looked longer at artworks made by artists who deviated toward nonrealism than at artworks made by artists who deviated toward realism, $F(1, 223) = 13.90, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .06$. The time participants spent looking at artworks made by artists who followed a predominant realistic style did not differ from the time participants spent looking at artworks made by artists who followed a predominant nonrealistic style, $F(1, 223) = 0.07, p = .791, \eta_p^2 < .01$ (see bottom left panel of [Figure 5](#)).

Perceived will-power. There was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, which showed that people inferred greater will-power when artists deviated from the predominant style than when they followed the predominant style, $F(1, 223) = 6.40, p = .012, \eta_p^2 = .03$. There was no main effect of contemporaries' style on perceived will-power, $F(1, 223) < 0.01, p = .976, \eta_p^2 < .01$. As predicted, we did find an interaction effect between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style, $F(1, 223) = 101.23, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .31$. Probing the interaction revealed that individuals regarded artists who deviated toward nonrealism as having stronger will-power than artists who deviated toward realism, $F(1, 223) = 51.45, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .23$. Individuals further considered artists who followed a predominant nonrealistic style as having stronger will-power than artists who followed a predominant realistic style, $F(1, 223) = 51.50, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .23$ (see bottom right panel of [Figure 5](#)), which likely reflects the higher impact of progressive styles, like nonrealism, in comparison to retrogressive styles, like realism.

Figure 5. Perceived influence, purchase intention, visual attention, and perceived will-power as a function of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style in Study 5. Bars represent means with their associated standard errors.

Moderated mediation. Finally, we performed moderated mediation analyses to test whether the interactive effect of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' style on each dependent variable (i.e., perceived influence, purchase intention, and visual attention) was mediated by perceived will-power. We specified three bootstrapped moderated mediation models with contemporaries' style and artist's interpersonal deviance as predictors, perceived will-power as mediator, and perceived influence (Model A), purchase intention (Model B), and visual attention (Model C) as outcome variables that were tested sequentially (Hayes, 2012; Model 7 in PROCESS, 1000 reiterations). Contemporaries' style was coded as -1 for realistic and 1 for nonrealistic, artist's interpersonal deviance was coded as -1 for nondeviant and 1 for deviant, and perceived will-power was centered at its mean. All three models were significant, providing evidence for moderated mediation (Model A: point estimate = -0.59 , $SE = 0.12$, $CI [-0.83, -0.36]$; Model B: point estimate = -0.60 , $SE = 0.13$, $CI [-0.87, -0.36]$; and Model C: point estimate = -0.06 , $SE = 0.03$, $CI [-0.12, -0.02]$). Analysis of the simple effects indicated that, compared with artists who deviated in the direction of realism, artists

who deviated in the direction of nonrealism were perceived as having stronger will-power, and this perception in turn increased the artist's perceived influence (point estimate = -0.29 , $SE = 0.07$, $95\% CI [-0.44, -0.17]$), purchase intentions for the artist's work (point estimate = -0.30 , $SE = 0.07$, $95\% CI [-0.45, -0.17]$), and attention paid to the artist's work (point estimate = -0.03 , $SE = 0.01$, $95\% CI [-0.07, -0.01]$). Artists who followed a dominant nonrealistic style were also thought of as having stronger will-power than artists who followed a dominant realistic style, and this inference in turn increased the artist's perceived influence (point estimate = 0.29 , $SE = 0.07$, $95\% CI [0.17, 0.44]$), purchase intentions for the artist's work (point estimate = 0.30 , $SE = 0.07$, $95\% CI [0.16, 0.45]$), and attention paid to the artist's work (point estimate = 0.03 , $SE = 0.01$, $95\% CI [0.01, 0.06]$).

Discussion

The results of the current study support the interpersonal deviance hypothesis, which holds that artists who deviate from their

contemporaries' style gain greater impact than artists who follow the predominant style, especially when artists deviate by employing progressive means of expression (i.e., nonrealism). The mediation analyses further revealed an underlying mechanism that accounts for these effects. Consistent with our theoretical arguments, artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style using nonrealistic means of expression are perceived to have stronger will-power, which in turn enhances individuals' influence perception, willingness to purchase the artists' products, and attention to the artist's work. These findings were robust across three measures of artistic impact, including an unobtrusive behavioral measure of attention.

Study 6

Study 6 examined the interpersonal deviance effect by incorporating several methodological improvements. First, in all previous studies where we operationalized artistic deviance, the artist would deviate by adopting a realistic or nonrealistic style. Nonrealistic art, however, features abstract elements, which can potentially introduce a confound between deviance and abstractness. In the current study we disentangled the effect of deviance from abstractness by keeping the style of the artworks constant across conditions (i.e., always nonrealistic) and instead manipulating the motif of the artworks: The focal artist would deviate by adopting a triangle-motif or a rectangular-motif in a nonrealistic artwork. Second, realistic and nonrealistic styles were born out of the Western culture, so our participants might have been familiar with the historical evolution and significance of these styles. For instance, because nonrealistic art has become increasingly prominent in the last few centuries, participants may expect artists to produce nonrealistic art nowadays. One might thus argue that in our previous studies, people's perceived impact of artists who deviated toward a nonrealistic style demonstrates an understanding of what is considered good art nowadays rather than a preference for deviance. To tackle this issue in the current study we used a cover story that neutralized the historical context by placing the artists on another planet with a unique culture and by temporally situating the production of the artworks in the current century. Participants were given no information about what is common and what is considered progressive or good art on this planet, so that they would have no preconceptions about the value of the expressive means used by the artists (i.e., triangle or rectangular motifs). Because the different motifs were thus freed from perceptions of progressiveness we expected that deviant artists would be considered more impactful than nondeviant artists regardless of the expressive means by which they would deviate (i.e., no moderation of the interpersonal deviance effect). Finally, we included a measure of will-power to see whether our proposed explanatory mechanism would still operate after we stripped the design from abstractness (the primary feature of nonrealistic art) and discharged the historical context. This study focused on the influence aspect of impact, which was used across all previous studies that examined the effect of artistic deviance.

Method

Sample. The required sample size of Study 6 ($N_R = 181$) was based on the cumulative effect size observed in Studies S1, S2a,

S2b, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The actual sample consisted of 218 participants who were recruited through Prolific Academic (www.prolific.ac). Participants were citizens of Ireland (6), the United Kingdom (165), and the United States of America (44). Three participants did not report their nationality. The study was administered as an online questionnaire and participants were compensated with money (see Table 1 for further sample details).

Design, materials, and procedure. Study 6 employed a similar experimental design to Studies 4 and 5. In Study 6 interpersonal deviance was operationalized as a choice for a different or the same motif employed by the artist's contemporaries (triangle vs. rectangular motif). We selected artworks of geometric abstraction, which is a form of nonrealistic art based on the use of geometric forms depicted in 2-dimensional space. The artworks were presented in their original color shade (see Table 2 for details about the artworks). Images of the artworks used in Study 6 may be requested by the first author.

Participants were instructed that they will read a story about a country from another planet, named "Aratartland," where people have developed a culture that is different from human culture. We then presented participants with three artworks that represented the dominant artistic trend in Aratartland. The dominant trend was characterized by either a triangle motif or a rectangular motif. Next participants saw the focal artist's painting, which employed either the same or a different motif than the other artists. Participants were told that all artworks had been made at the beginning of the century. We measured the focal artist's will-power with the same scale we used in Study 5 ($\alpha = .87$). We then measured perceived influence of the focal artist using the same scale we used in the previous studies ($\alpha = .91$). We also measured perceived deviance of the artwork using the item "I think this artwork . . . is deviant compared with the rest of the artworks" and the reverse-scored item ". . . is similar to the rest of the artworks," $r(218) = .48, p < .001$. Finally, participants rated the perceived abstractness of each artwork with a 7-point bipolar item ranging from 1 = *realistic* to 7 = *abstract*.

Results

We first compared the perceived abstractness of the triangle-motif artworks to the rectangular-motif artworks by averaging the abstractness ratings of the artworks in the no-deviance conditions, namely, the conditions where participants were presented with only triangle- or rectangular-motif artworks. This comparison showed that triangle-motif artworks ($M = 5.67, SD = 1.43$) did not differ from rectangular-motif artworks ($M = 5.46, SD = 1.42$) in terms of abstractness, $F(1, 107) = 0.58, p = .448$, which confirms that artworks of different motifs were perceived as equally abstract.

Next, we carried out a series of 2-way ANOVAs to examine the effects of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' motif on perceived interpersonal deviance, perceived influence, and perceived will-power. Descriptives are displayed in Table 5, and test statistics are reported in text below.

Perceived interpersonal deviance (manipulation check). As expected, there was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, with deviant artists' motif being perceived as more deviant from their contemporaries' motif as compared with nondeviant artists, $F(1, 214) = 188.24, p < .001, \eta_p^2 = .47$. There was no main effect of

contemporaries' motif, $F(1, 214) = 2.26$, $p = .134$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$. Furthermore, there was no interaction between artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' motif, which indicated that the manipulation of artist's interpersonal deviance was orthogonal to the manipulation of contemporaries' motif, $F(1, 214) = 2.39$, $p = .123$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$, as intended.

Perceived influence. There was the predicted main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, with artists who deviated from the dominant motif being perceived as more influential than artists who followed the dominant motif, $F(1, 214) = 63.96$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .23$. As expected, there was no main effect of contemporaries' motif, $F(1, 214) = 2.20$, $p = .139$, $\eta_p^2 = .01$, and no interaction effect, $F(1, 214) = 0.12$, $p = .729$, $\eta_p^2 < .01$ (see left panel of Figure 6).

Perceived will-power. There was a main effect of artist's interpersonal deviance, which showed that people inferred greater will-power when artists deviated from the dominant motif than when they followed the dominant motif, $F(1, 214) = 96.55$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .31$. There was no main effect of contemporaries' motif, $F(1, 214) = 0.05$, $p = .829$, $\eta_p^2 < .01$, and no interaction effect, $F(1, 214) = 0.84$, $p = .362$, $\eta_p^2 < .01$ (see right panel of Figure 6).

Mediation. We performed a mediation analysis to test whether the effect of artist's interpersonal deviance on perceived influence was mediated by perceived will-power. We specified a bootstrapped mediation model with artist's interpersonal deviance as predictor, perceived will-power as mediator, and perceived influence as outcome variable (Hayes, 2012; Model 4 in PROCESS, 1000 reiterations). Artist's interpersonal deviance was coded as -1 for nondeviant and 1 for deviant and perceived will-power was centered at its mean. This model provided evidence for mediation (point estimate = 0.16 , $SE = 0.07$, $CI [0.03, 0.30]$). This indicates that, compared with artists who follow the dominant motif of their era, artists who deviate from it are considered to have stronger will-power, which in turn enhances their perceived influence.

Discussion

Study 6 showed that artists who deviate from the dominant artistic trend of their era are perceived as more influential than artists who

follow the dominant trend. Most important, the means by which the artists deviated did not moderate the effects of interpersonal deviance in this case: Artists who deviated using a triangle motif were considered equally influential as artists who deviated using a rectangular motif. This anticipated nullification of the moderation effect that was consistently observed in the previous studies is consistent with our theoretical argument. In the current study, the use of nonrealistic artworks across conditions erased the condition of progressiveness that was introduced in the previous studies by the contrast between realistic and nonrealistic styles. The fact that the effect of deviance on impact was not moderated when this condition was raised signifies that progressiveness of deviance is an important boundary condition: Artistic deviance is effective when it leads to some sort of progress; when participants cannot make inferences about the progressiveness of the deviant artworks, the effect of deviance remains but it is not moderated. Furthermore, in all previous studies deviation from the contemporaries' style entailed a choice for either a realistic or a nonrealistic style, which also differed in the perceived abstractness of each style. In the current study we controlled for this stylistic property by using artworks of the same style across all conditions (i.e., nonrealistic) and by manipulating another element of the artwork, namely, the motif. Importantly, the category of triangle-motif artworks was perceived as equally abstract as the category of rectangular-motif artworks. The results thus indicate that the effect of interpersonal deviance on artistic impact occurs above and beyond abstractness. Moreover, the effect of deviance proved robust in a neutralized historical context, which implies that the observed effect cannot be accounted for by participants' preconceptions or stereotypes about the value of the expressive means used by the artists since participants had no access to evaluative information of these means. Instead, in keeping with our theoretical argument, the effect of interpersonal deviance on perceived influence was explained by inferences of the deviant artist's will-power.

Meta-Analytic Synthesis of Findings

Even though our studies provide rather consistent support for our hypotheses, we carried out meta-analyses that synthesized the findings of different studies to provide more reliable estimates of

Figure 6. Perceived influence and perceived will-power as a function of artist's interpersonal deviance and contemporaries' motif in Study 6. Bars represent means with their associated standard errors.

the intrapersonal deviance main effect and the interpersonal deviance main and interaction effects. The intrapersonal deviance interaction effect was not meta-analyzed since it was only tested in one study (Study 3). Because some studies included more than one measure of artistic impact (i.e., Studies 2 and 5), we standardized the scores of each study's variables to enable combining them into a single estimate of artistic impact per study. The use of composite estimates was necessary because in meta-analysis each effect size estimate has to be based on a unique sample, which means that only one effect size estimate per study can be included (Raudenbush, 2009). Furthermore, we used standardized regression coefficients as effect size estimates because they could be computed in all studies, and we used a random-effects approach because of the variety of methodologies used across studies. Meta-analysis was performed using Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (Borenstein, Hedges, Higgins, & Rothstein, 2009).

Meta-analytic results are commonly presented in a forest plot that depicts both the individual effects observed in each study and the overall effects estimated across studies (see Figures 7 to 9). The left part of the figure presents the standardized regression coefficients (beta) that express the difference between the conditions under comparison (e.g., Condition A vs. Condition B) as individual and overall effects. The right part of the figure graphically presents these effects with their confidence intervals within a range of ± 1 SD and relative to a reference line set at 0. The individual effects are represented with an empty rectangular, and the overall effects are represented with a solid diamond. When the confidence intervals of an effect fall on the left side of the reference line, participants in Condition A scored higher on perceived artistic impact than participants in Condition B; when they fall on the right side, participants in Condition A scored lower than participants in Condition B; and when they fall in between, there was no significant difference in artistic impact scores between Conditions A and B.

Intrapersonal Deviance Main Effect

According to the intrapersonal deviance hypothesis, artists who deviate from their previous means of expression by adopting

distinct artistic styles are considered more impactful than artists who consistently follow a single style throughout their career. The intrapersonal deviance main effect was tested in Studies 2 and 3, which we combined in the current meta-analysis. The heterogeneity tests showed that the effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance on artistic impact did not significantly vary across studies, $Q(1) = 0.02$, $p = .891$. The overall statistics showed that artists who deviated from their previous style were considered more impactful than artists who consistently followed a single style throughout their career, $\beta = 0.27$, $SE = 0.08$, $Z = 3.61$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [0.12, 0.42] (see Figure 7).

Interpersonal Deviance Main and Interaction Effects

According to the interpersonal deviance hypothesis, artists who deviate from the style adopted by their contemporaries have more impact than artists who follow their contemporaries' style. The interpersonal deviance main effect was tested in Studies 4, 5, and 6, which we combined in the current meta-analysis. The test of heterogeneity showed that the effect of artist's interpersonal deviance on artistic impact significantly varied across studies, $Q(2) = 16.71$, $p < .001$. The difference in the magnitude of the effects is due to the operationalization of deviance (style vs. motif). The direction of the effects, however, was homogeneous, which allows us to interpret the overall statistics. The overall statistics showed that artists who deviated from their contemporaries' style were considered more impactful than artists who followed their contemporaries' style, $\beta = 0.27$, $SE = 0.11$, $Z = 2.51$, $p = .012$, 95% CI [0.06, 0.49] (see Figure 8).

In light of the progressive development of artistic movements (Tennie et al., 2009), we expected that the interpersonal deviance effect would be more pronounced when artists deviate toward a progressive style than when they deviate toward a retrogressive style (moderation of the interpersonal deviance effect). For instance, artists who deviate from a predominant realistic style by adopting nonrealistic means of expression should be seen as more impactful than artists who deviate from a predominant nonrealistic style by adopting realistic means of expression, because nonrealism is considered a more progres-

Figure 7. Meta-analytic effect of artist's intrapersonal deviance (no vs. yes) on artistic impact across Studies 2 and 3. CI stands for confidence interval. Diamonds represent overall effects and rectangles represent effects of individual studies. When the CIs of an effect fall on the right [left] side of 0, deviant artists were considered more [less] impactful than nondeviant artists.

Figure 8. Meta-analytic effect of artist's interpersonal deviance (no vs. yes) on artistic impact across Studies 4, 5, and 6. CI stands for confidence interval. Diamonds represent overall effects and rectangles represent effects of individual studies. When the CIs of an effect fall on the right [left] side of 0, deviant artists were considered more [less] impactful than nondeviant artists.

sive movement. The interpersonal deviance interaction effect was expected to be found in Studies 4 and 5 where deviance was operationalized by means of realistic and nonrealistic artworks. This effect was therefore tested in another meta-analysis that included these two studies. The meta-analytic model examined the impact of artists who followed or deviated from a predominant realistic or nonrealistic style (as determined by their contemporaries' style). As predicted, the analysis showed that perceived artistic impact differed depending on whether artists followed or deviated from their contemporaries' style, $Q(1) = 26.04$, $p < .001$. The pattern of the moderation indicated that artists who deviated from their contemporaries' style were considered more impactful when the predominant style was

realistic rather than nonrealistic, $\beta = -0.32$, $SE = 0.07$, 95% CI $[-0.46, -0.19]$, $Z = -4.71$, $p < .001$ (see [Figure 9](#)). Thus, artists who deviated from their contemporaries' style toward a progressive style (nonrealism) were more influential than artists who deviated toward a retrogressive style (realism). Furthermore, artists who followed their contemporaries' style were considered more impactful when the predominant style was nonrealistic rather than realistic, $\beta = 0.16$, $SE = 0.07$, 95% CI $[0.03, 0.29]$, $Z = 2.47$, $p = .014$. The greater impact of nonrealistic artists likely reflects participants' belief that progressive styles, such as nonrealism, are more impactful than retrogressive styles, such as realism (see Studies S1, S2a, and S2b in the [Online Supplemental Material](#)).

Figure 9. Meta-analytic effect of artist's interpersonal deviance (no vs. yes) and contemporaries' style (realistic vs. nonrealistic) on artistic impact across Studies 4, 5, and 6. CI stands for confidence interval. Diamonds represent overall effects and rectangles represent effects of individual studies. When the CIs of an effect fall on the right [left] side of 0, artists who followed contemporaries' nonrealistic style were considered more [less] impactful than artists who followed contemporaries' realistic style.

General Discussion

The current research investigated whether deviating from the norms in the world of art enhances an artist's potential to rise to fame. The results of six studies demonstrate that various forms of artistic deviance influence perceived artistic impact as long as deviance is directed toward a progressive movement. In line with our hypotheses, artists who deviate from their previous artistic style are considered more impactful than artists who consistently follow a single style throughout their career, especially when the artistic path of deviant artists features a transition toward a progressive style, such as nonrealism (intrapersonal deviance). Moreover, artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style gain greater impact than artists who follow their contemporaries' style, in particular when artists deviate from the predominant style by adopting a progressive style, like nonrealism (interpersonal deviance).

Contributions and Implications

Our findings make a number of contributions to the literature. First, although breaking the rules in art may seem to be the new rule, our research has revealed a crucial boundary condition to the effectiveness of artistic deviance in terms of gaining impact: the progressiveness of deviance. At the intrapersonal level, we saw that artists increase their appeal by first establishing their place within the conventions of their era and then straying away from conventions, whereas artists who start off with ground-breaking work or stick to old practices are less acclaimed. These findings indicate that people are not only interested in art as an end product, but also in the process that led to it. This insight can inform art education programs, which should emphasize not only the development of a distinct style but also the acquisition of traditional techniques. At the interpersonal level, we observed that artists increase their impact when they break with conventions by adopting a style that is considered progressive, whereas artists that differentiate themselves by adopting an old-fashioned style gain less acclaim. These findings imply that artists need to differentiate themselves from others in such a way that their distinct style is seen as the evolution of previously existing artwork styles; a distinct style that has been employed in the past is seen as backward movement and is appreciated less. Apparently, people want to see how an artist's work contributes to the progress of art over time. Deviant artists could thus benefit from pitching their work as a linkage between past and future artistic trends. Progressiveness, however, is not a prerequisite for the positive effects of artistic deviance when people are not familiar with the historical significance of the artist's expressive means. Our last study showed that when art is stripped from the historical context, deviance works irrespective of the means by which the artist deviated. This might imply that for areas of art of which people have less knowledge (e.g., artworks from unfamiliar cultures), deviance in general might be enough.

Second, we have shown that artists who break with conventions are more likely to flourish because the public perceives their actions to be intentional. The role of intentionality was established by the mediation analyses in Studies 3, 5, and 6. Study 3 demonstrated that artists who stray away from an earlier realistic style by adopting nonrealism are perceived to have stronger will-power and thereby greater impact potential than artists who stray away from

an earlier nonrealistic style by adopting realism. Although realistic artworks are considered less progressive, when they appear at an early stage of an artist's career they irrefutably prove that the artist's later nonrealistic works were not a product of incompetence but an intentional choice to shape a personal artistic path. Studies 5 and 6 showed that artists who deviate from their contemporaries' style are also thought of as having stronger will-power and therefore greater impact than artists who follow their contemporaries' style. Artists who are impervious to external influences evince that their style choice is dictated by their will to move art forward by introducing innovative means of expression. These findings are consistent with research on the perception of deviant social targets in nonartistic domains who were considered more powerful because of their perceived volition (Van Kleef et al., 2011) or autonomy (Bellezza et al., 2014).

Third, there is ample research on the potential of social movements to gain influence, but only limited research on the potential of artistic movements to gain ground (but see Inglis, 1996, and Lena & Pachucki, 2013). It is currently unknown whether common social influence mechanisms that have been widely investigated in social psychology and marketing, among other fields, generalize to the domain of art appreciation. For instance, our research provides evidence that the accumulation of innovation credits through conformity is important in art too (Hollander, 1958). Future research could explore the application of social influence theories in the field of art by taking into account that art appreciation is governed by a unique set of rules that relate to social perceptual processes as well as the historical context (Bullot & Reber, 2013). In fact, our research points out how different aspects of artistic production, such as the evolution of styles within an artist's career or between artists of an era, interact to explain artistic impact.

Finally, our research shows that deviance in art is a decisive factor for people's aesthetic preferences. This finding builds upon and enriches previous research that aims to explain aesthetic preferences (Heinrichs & Cupchik, 1985; Leder et al., 2004; Lindell & Mueller, 2011) and opens up new research directions by highlighting the important role of beholders' perception of an artwork as deviant. This finding is also consistent with visual perception theories that consider the resolution of expectancy violations a crucial aspect of aesthetic pleasure (Huron, 2006; Van de Cruys & Wagemans, 2011) as well as philosophical theories of aesthetic appreciation, which maintain that the contrast between the negative state of obstruction and the positive state of resolution is the working ingredient of catharsis, that is, the purification of emotions through art (Aristotle, 1965).

Strengths, Limitations, and Future Directions

We have advanced and tested a parsimonious research model that delineates the effects of artistic deviance on artistic impact at different levels of analysis, in which progressiveness of deviance was conceptualized as a boundary condition and will-power as an underlying mechanism. Across five studies, we demonstrated consistent effects of the previous work of the artist and the work of the artists' contemporaries on three aspects of artistic impact (i.e., influence, valuation, and attention). Furthermore, we used different operationalizations of artistic deviance that allowed us to rule out the influence of confounding variables (e.g., the artwork's perceived abstractness) and alternative explanations of our find-

ings (e.g., preference for deviant art derived from participants' stereotypes about the value of nonrealistic styles). Our effects were tested in a large sample that spanned a broad age range and included people from diverse educational backgrounds. Our conclusions were corroborated in a series of meta-analyses that attest to the robustness of the overall effects as well as the homogeneity of the effects of the individual studies.

Despite the strengths of our research, one may be concerned about the fact that in our studies we used real-world paintings rather than standardized stimuli. Even though standardized stimuli allow greater control over confounding factors, we opted for real-world stimuli to increase the ecological validity of our stimulus set. This approach addresses one of the main criticisms of empirical aesthetics, namely that research on aesthetic experiences is often reduced to the study of visual stimuli devoid of artistic meaning and historical context (Currie, 2003). Additionally, the results of Study 4, which involved exact copies of original artworks, were replicated in Study 5, where the most prominent aspects of the artworks were standardized. We thus conclude that the artwork stimuli we used are both ecologically and methodologically valid.

Another consideration may stem from people's inferences about the age of the artworks. One may argue that in the deviance conditions of Studies 4 and 5 participants might have considered realistic paintings less impactful than the focal nonrealistic painting because the realistic paintings were thought of as older-looking. Participants might have further thought that older paintings have more time to accumulate impact, so if they now look unfamiliar it means that they did not stand the test of time. This implies that observers might have evaluated the nonrealistic artist who deviated from his or her contemporaries' style as more impactful because they considered the contemporaries' realistic artworks older and unfamiliar rather than the nonrealistic artwork more deviant. However, in both Studies 4 and 5 participants were told that all artworks were made in approximately the same time period to keep the temporal component constant. This means that participants in this study could not have thought that the realistic artworks are less impactful because they look older than the nonrealistic artworks. Furthermore, in Study 6, in which we kept both the artwork style and the temporal component constant by using nonrealistic artworks that were made at the beginning of the century, people's judgments of impact could only be attributed to artistic deviance rather than artwork age. Although inferences about the artwork's age cannot explain the pattern of findings in our data, we do believe that investigating the role of artwork age on impact in future studies could further our understanding of the processes that affect artistic impact.⁵

Our studies reflect how people react to deviance in the context of art, which may limit the generalizability of our findings to artistic judgments. Future studies could further examine whether our model generalizes to judgments in other types of creative industries, such as advertising, fashion, film making, and music (Baker & Faulkner, 1991; Howkins, 2001). For example, it would be interesting to investigate whether experimental music genres, like jazz and contemporary classical music, are appreciated more when the audience becomes aware that they are derived from more conventional music genres, that is, blues and classical music, respectively (Burkholder, Grout, & Palisca, 2006). Another interesting avenue for future research is to examine how people's

responses to deviance in the artistic domain compare with their responses in nonartistic domains. Some domains have a restricted range of acceptable behaviors and leave little room for individual discretion in determining behavior (e.g., business), whereas other domains are more ambiguously structured and place fewer external constraints on individuals (e.g., art). The extent to which domains afford or constrain behavioral options has been referred to as *situational constraint* (Price & Bouffard, 1974). Domains of higher situational constraint may be less tolerant of deviant behavior than domains of lower situational constraint. Future research could thus examine whether the constraint of the domain affect people's reactions to deviance.

In our research, artistic deviance was studied within a Western cultural context, which potentially limits the generalizability of our findings. One of the main features of Western societies is the importance given to the concept of the individual (Triandis, 1987). Individualistic values in Western cultures have been an important force that fundamentally changed the way people think about deviance (Baumeister, 1987). The rise of individualism enforced artists' concerns about being authentic and "staying true to themselves" (the ideal of authenticity; Trilling, 1971) and allowed the development of idiosyncratic styles in art as well as a constant renunciation of the customary (the notion of counterwill; Rank, 1932/1989). One could therefore assume that reactions to artistic deviance depend on the cultural context. Individuals in Western cultures may have more favorable reactions to artistic deviance because deviant artists fulfill the cultural ideal of being unique. On the contrary, individuals in East Asian cultures may have less favorable reactions to artistic deviance because deviant artists do not fulfill the cultural ideal of conforming to normative standards (Kim & Markus, 1999). Different cultural ideals may also explain why East Asian cultures are more likely to foster incremental innovations, whereas Western cultures encourage more breakthrough ones (Herbig & Palumbo, 1996). Furthermore, the way people perceive individuals who deviate from the norm and the cultural values people endorse could account for the differential evolution of art movements in different parts of the world. Specifically, artists in East Asia might have been driven to learn basic skills through diligent imitation of old masters, whereas artists in the Western world might have been driven to produce original works, which may explain the rapid succession of different art movements in the West. Future research could thus investigate how the effect of artistic deviance on impact plays out in nonwestern populations.

Three studies that examined perceived will-power as underlying mechanism suggested that deviant artists are acclaimed because their behavior is considered willful. In other words, artistic deviance begets impact because it is seen as a means to some aesthetic or expressive goal. For instance, artists who deviate toward a realistic style may be considered less acclaimed than artists who deviate toward a nonrealistic style, because the latter form of deviance serves the goal of artistic progress. However, the reasons why artists deviate may vary. Artist A might deviate in a certain

⁵ Study S3, reported in the [Online Supplemental Material](#), shows that older artworks are perceived as more influential than younger artworks; however, artwork age does not moderate the effect of artistic deviance on impact. These findings suggest that the effect of artistic deviance on impact is independent from the effect of artwork age.

direction because she wants to give voice to suffering, whereas artist B might deviate in the same direction because he realizes that the deviant style is more profitable. This raises the question, is willful deviance valued even if it is for ignoble or immoral reasons? Philosophical accounts that examine what is considered valuable in aesthetics hold that the evaluation of an artwork is often influenced by concerns about the morality of a certain decision (Guyer, 2005). Accordingly, future research could investigate whether deviant artists whose behavior is considered moral may gain more impact than artists who deviate by the same expressive means but whose behavior is considered immoral. Perceived morality may therefore constitute an interesting boundary condition of the current findings.⁶

Another interesting boundary condition to the effects of artistic deviance on impact relates to observers' condition of reception while viewing an artwork. Deviance in art may get an edge over convention in situations where the target artwork is not pertinent to urgent goals, and thus when people have the luxury to engage it on their own time (Kant, 1952/2007). Previous research provides suggestive evidence for this account. A study that examined the role of personal need for structure (PNS)—a construct that captures variability in the need to apprehend the world in clear-cut terms—on appreciation of modern art found that high-PNS participants rated modern paintings less favorably than low-PNS participants. The proposed argument explaining this finding was that high-PNS participants felt more threatened by the lack of direct meaning that modern art may create. This may explain why high-PNS participants liked a modern artwork more when it was imbued with meaning by providing a constructive title (Landau et al., 2006). Another study showed that individuals high in need for cognitive closure (NFC)—a construct that correlates with PNS—evaluated nonrealistic paintings less favorably than realistic paintings as compared with individuals low in NFC. Also, under time pressure, individuals preferred realistic paintings more than non-realistic paintings (Wiersema et al., 2012). Similarly, Silvia (2005) reported that participants found visual artworks more interesting when their perceived ability to understand them increased. These findings suggest that observers may appreciate deviant artworks more when their psychological states or traits (e.g., low-PNS, low-NFS, low time pressure, high self-appraised ability to understand) allow them to engage the artworks on their own time. Future studies could shed further light on the conditions that facilitate the appreciation of deviant artistic work.

Conclusion

Although the popular notion “there is no accounting for taste” may be perennial, the current research indicates that people's aesthetic judgments are reliably predicted by the degree to which and the way in which artists' works deviate from prevailing artistic norms. We demonstrated that whether artists deviate from their previous style and the conventions of their era may determine the extent to which their artistic ideas persist or perish. The early works of Claude Monet and his associates prove that they were adept at producing a realistic representation of the world, whereas their impressionistic works attest that they were determined to break away from the iron cage of realistic art forms embraced by their contemporaries. The art critic who coined the term “Impressionists” to satirically refer to these deviant artists could have

never imagined that their artistic work and vision would echo down the ages.

⁶ Study S4, reported in the [Online Supplemental Material](#), provides suggestive evidence that perceptions of intentionality enhance deviant artists' impact only when the reason for deviance is perceived to be moral—when deviance is not considered moral, intentionality may backfire.

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Appendix A

Artworks Used in Study 2

Artworks used are listed per condition: No intrapersonal deviance—Only realistic style (top row), No intrapersonal deviance—Only nonrealistic style (middle row), and Intrapersonal deviance—Mixed style (bottom row).

Still life, Willem De Kooning

Portrait of Elaine, Willem De Kooning

Untitled (still life), Willem De Kooning

Drawings, Winter-Spring, Graham White

Untitled (cow jumps over the moon), Willem De Kooning

Untitled (charcoal drawing), Willem De Kooning

Secretary, Willem De Kooning

Figure, Willem De Kooning

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(Appendices continue)

Appendix B

Artworks Used in Study 3

Artworks used are listed per condition: No intrapersonal deviance/Realistic early style (top row), No intrapersonal deviance/Nonrealistic early style (upper middle row), Intrapersonal deviance/Realistic early style (lower middle row), and Intrapersonal deviance/Nonrealistic early style (bottom row).

Bull (plate II), Bull (plate III), Bull (plate VII), Bull (plate IX) by Pablo Picasso

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(Appendices continue)

Appendix C

Artworks Used in Study 4

Artworks used are listed per condition: No interpersonal deviance/Contemporaries' realistic style (top row), No interpersonal deviance/Contemporaries' nonrealistic style (upper middle row), Interpersonal deviance/Contemporaries' realistic style (lower middle row), Interpersonal deviance/Contemporaries' nonrealistic style (bottom row).

Note. The focal artwork appears in the middle position of each row.

Braids (Helga Terstorf), Andrew Wyeth

Portrait of the Artist's Mother, Pablo Picasso

Portrait of a Woman, Boris Kustodiev

Portrait of Katharina Cornell, Salvador Dali

Portrait of Jacqueline Roque With Her Hands Crossed, Pablo Picasso

Ridens, Francis Picabia

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