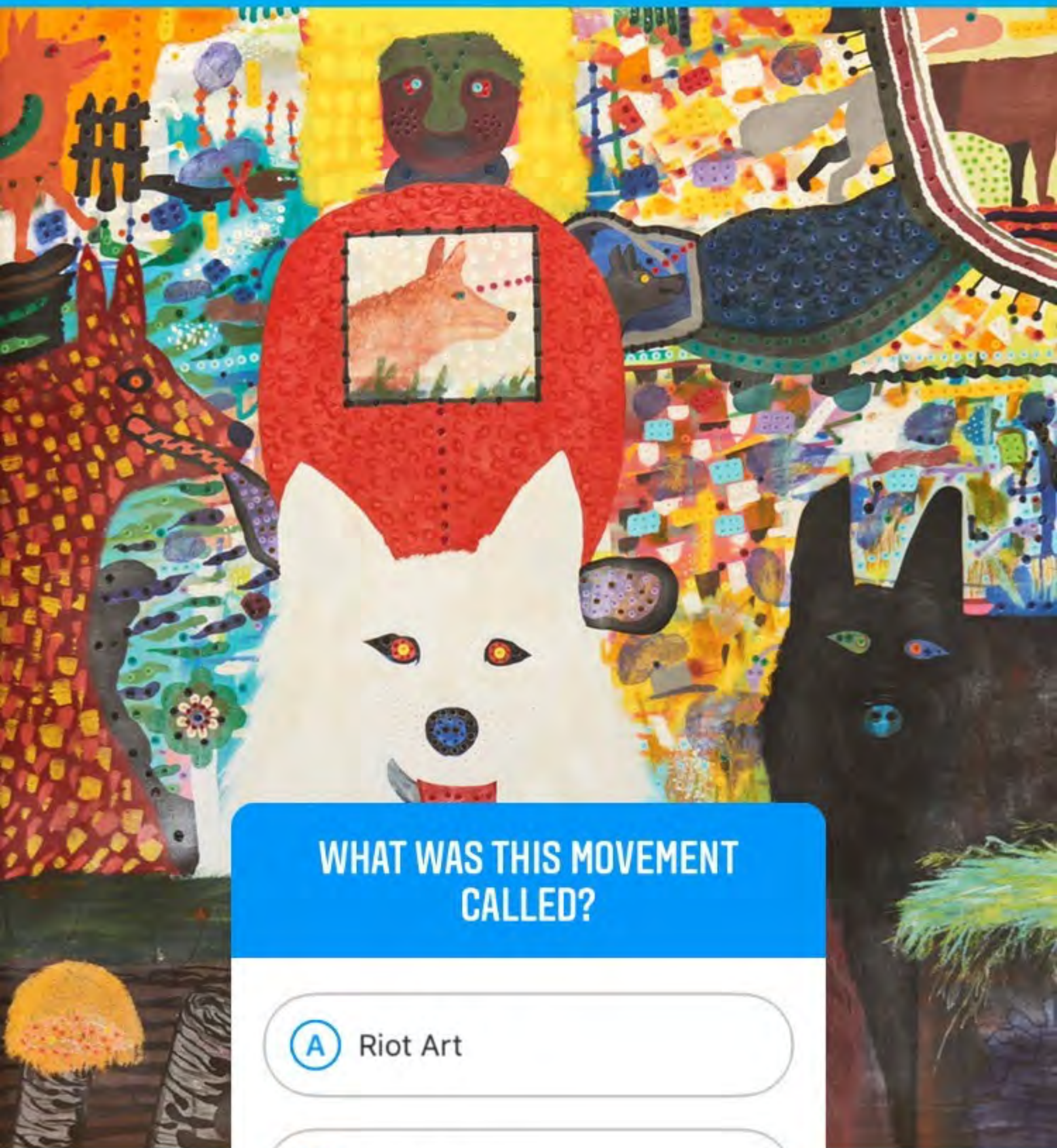




What 20th century Bay Area art movement described the artistic rebellion against Abstract Expressionism?



WHAT WAS THIS MOVEMENT
CALLED?

- ☐ A Riot Art
- ☐ B Funk Art
- ☐ C Free Art
- ☐ D Humane Art



Answer: Funk Art

Roy De Forest
The Inner Life (1973)

Funk art was a regional art movement that was alive and well throughout Northern California from as early as the late 1950s to the 1970s. The movement originated from the free spirited energy of Bay Area cities like San Francisco combined with its beatnik art culture and active youth political activism reacting against issues like the Vietnam War.



Dancing in the Panhandle, June 1967.
© Jim Marshall Photography LLC



Peter Saul
Relax in Electric Chair (Dirty Guy), 1965
Photograph by Israel Valencia

The work of Funk artists was at times a reaction against Abstract Expressionism, which they believed was too removed from humanity. Their goal was to bring the contemporary art scene back to including some realism and social responsibility.



Bruce Conner
MEXICO COLLAGE, 1962
© Conner Family Trust, San Francisco,
and Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

The first director of the University of Art Museum in Berkeley, California, Peter Selz, explained that his intentions with the *FUNK* art exhibition he organized in 1967 was to document a particular attitude toward art in the Bay Area that he had noticed while writing an article of West Coast art for the March 1967 issue of *Art in America*. Borrowing a term from the New Orleans blues scene, he applied “funk” to describe this unique attitude. This exhibition was not received well amongst the artists in the show because they felt as if Selz defined an art movement that did not exist.



Peter Selz,
Berkeley Art Museum
and Pacific Film Archive

“Funk art is hot rather than cool; it is committed rather than disengaged; it is bizarre rather than formal; it is sensuous; and frequently it is quite ugly and ungainly. Although usually three-dimensional, it is non-sculptural in any traditional way, and irreverent in attitude. It is symbolic, in content and evocative in feeling.”

- Peter Selz

*Pop Quiz is supported by a grant from
the Five Arts Fund, a Community
Impact Fund of Napa Valley
Community Foundation.*