

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRECISIONISM

Characteristics of Precisionism	Description of Precisionism
Reduced compositions to simple shapes and underlying geometrical structures	Like Cubists, Precisionists emphasized geometric shapes, but they did so by uncovering the shapes inherent in a “realistic” image. Complex geometric patterns are created by lines projected by light, shadow, the imaginary extension of objects, or representations of multiple perspectives (spatial or temporal).
Used clear outlines, minimal detail, and smooth handling of surfaces	Unlike most Cubists, Precisionists relied on a “realistic” image, but simplified it, emphasizing borders of objects and deemphasizing other details.
Selected subjects from the American landscape and regional American culture.	As American artists, Precisionists wanted their work to reflect an American experience. As a result, many precisionist paintings focus on recognizable urban and rural landscapes.