

A list

10 famous musical body parts

1. Flaming Lips
2. Badfinger
3. Talking Heads
4. Belly
5. Nine Inch Nails
6. Frankie Knuckles
7. Third Eye Blind
8. Smash Mouth
9. Mother Love Bone
10. Faces

On Wednesday, you have your choice: Nine Inch Nails at the UIC Pavilion or Flaming Lips at Metro.

Entertainment 101

Q. I see the Chicago Cultural Center is having a show of abstract paintings with strong optical patterns. Wasn't there a movement about that in the 1960s?

A. Yes, there was a short-lived trend that began in the mid-'60s called Op art. The name, which self-consciously echoed Pop art, the ironic figurative painting of the time, first appeared in Time magazine in 1964; the first American museum exhibition, "The Responsive Eye," opened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York the following year.

Here was painting that transmitted everything, its entire content, through optical effects alone. But just to show that little in art is ever really new, Op art came out of the earlier French concept known as *art visuel*, and its physiological effects of color and pattern go back through several modern movements to Post-Impressionism.

Op art was international in scope, and some of the better-known practitioners were Victor Vasarely (Hungarian-French), Bridget Riley (British), Jesus Raphael Soto (Venezuelan-French) and Yaacov Agam (Israeli-French). Incidentally, just across from the Cultural Center, on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street, is a permanent outdoor piece by Agam, so if you go to see the new show, which runs through June 25, take a fresh look at the old master.

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