THE SWINGING SIXTIES



July 20, 1969: Armstrong walks on moon

At 10:56 p.m. American astronaut Neil Armstrong, 240,000 miles from Earth, speaks these words to more than a billion people listening at home: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Stepping off the lunar landing module Eagle, Armstrong became the first human to walk on the surface of the moon.



John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, is assassinated while traveling through Dallas, Texas, in an open-top convertible. First lady Jacqueline Kennedy was beside him, along with Texas Governor John Connally and his wife, on November 22. As their vehicle passed the Texas School Book Depository Building at 12:30 p.m., Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly fired three shots from the sixth floor, fatally wounding President Kennedy and seriously injuring Governor Connally.



Vietnam War: November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975

The Vietnam War was fought between communist North Vietnam and the government of Southern Vietnam. The North was supported by communist countries such as the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The South was supported by anti-communist countries, primarily the United States. The United States lost the Vietnam War. Not only did the US lose the war and the country of Vietnam to the communists, the US lost prestige in the eyes of the world.



August 15-17, 1969: Woodstock, the most famous of the 1960s rock festivals, held on a farm property in Bethel, New York. It was organized by four inexperienced promoters who nonetheless signed notorious rock acts, including Jimi Hendrix, the Who, or Janis Joplin. Few tickets were sold, but some 400,000 people showed up. Rain then turned the festival site into a sea of mud, but somehow the audience bonded - possibly because large amounts of marijuana and psychedelics were consumed - and the festival went on.



Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans are undoubtedly the signature work in the artist's career. The 1962 series of 32 paintings is the centerpiece in this focused collection exhibition of Warhol's work. The Soup Cans mark a breakthrough for Warhol, when he began to apply his seminal strategies of serial repetition and reproduction to key subjects from American culture. The exhibition also includes drawings & illustrated books Warhol made in the 1950s, when he started his career as a commercial artist, when he became a beacon of the Pop art movement.



1960: Release of 'Psycho'

Alfred Hitchcock had made his name as the "master of suspense" with brilliant, glossy thrillers like Rear Window and North by Northwest, but Psycho was altogether different - the like of which most cinema-goers had never seen.

With its shocking bursts of violence and provocative sexual explicitness, Psycho tested the strict censorship boundaries of the day as well as audiences' mettle - and it gave Hitchcock the biggest hit of his career.



Muhammad Ali Becomes World Heavyweight Champion

On February 25, 1964, Cassius Clay, better known as Muhammad Ali, fought defending champion Charles "Sonny" Liston for the world heavyweight title in Miami Beach, Florida. Although it was nearly unanimously believed that Clay would be knocked out by round two, if not earlier, it was Liston who lost the fight after refusing to continue fighting at round seven. This fight was one of the largest upsets in sports history, setting Cassius Clay on a long path of fame and controversy.



Charles Manson is notoriously connected to the brutal slayings of actress Sharon Tate and other Hollywood residents, but he was never actually found guilty of committing the murders himself. However, the famous Tate-La Bianca killings have immortalized him as a living embodiment of evil. The Manson Family is thought to have carried out some 35 killings. Most were never tried, either for lack of evidence or because the perpetrators were already sentenced to life for the Tate/La Bianca killings. In 2012, Manson was denied parole for the 12th time.



Marilyn Monroe's death

Marilyn Monroe, born as Norma Jeane Mortenson (later baptized as Norma Jeane Baker) in Los Angeles, California was an American model turned actress, famous for her seductive blonde persona on and off camera from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. Monroe appeared in a number of popular movies but is best remembered as an international sex symbol who died unexpectedly and mysteriously in 1962 at age 36.



The Cold War was a time of tension between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union and the United States, and their respective ideologies. It followed the Second World War and persisted from roughly 1945-1991. Differences between the two countries stemmed from their ideologies. Communism was the ideology followed by the Soviet Union. They were also totalitarian, meaning all the power was with the rulers. The United States was capitalist which meant that people could own land and businesses and compete for themselves.



1964: Nelson Mandela jailed for life

The leader of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, Nelson Mandela, has been jailed for life for sabotage. He was released in 1990, jointly awarded the Nobel peace prize with President FW de Klerk in 1993 and elected South Africa's president in the country's first multi-racial elections held in 1994.



1963: Martin Luther King delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech

MLK became the predominant leader in the Civil Rights Movement to end racial segregation and discrimination in America during the 1950s and 1960s and a leading spokesperson for nonviolent methods of achieving social change. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Price in 1964. His "I Have a Dream" speech, which is now considered to be among the great speeches of American history, is frequently quoted. Ultimately, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.