Disembodied Heart, Olmec 1500BC

- Small hands
- Orange skin
- Wearing his heart on his sleeve
Cueva de Pindal, Asturias, Spain

13,000 to 18,000 years old

I ❤️ a Gresham audience
Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense.
the heart is special to people

the heart

♥ starts working within days of conception
♥ works ceaselessly
♥ beats 100k/day, 40m/year
♥ 3 billion in average lifespan
♥ supplies distribution network of 97,000 km of vessels

and most of the time you don’t notice it’s there
the heart is special to people
soul emotion love strength
not just form and function
The heart is special to humans in terms of disposition, feelings, and sense of intention.
The heart is special to humans. The heart is the most important organ in the body, and the seat of the soul.

Empedocles 5th C BC
The heart is special to humans.

- **nous** (mind) ≈ brain
- **psyche** (soul) ≈ heart
- (growth) ≈ umbilicus

Philolaus 5thC BC
section of a film made in 1957 by Sir Henry Dale FRS and colleagues, based on a film he made with Sir Thomas Lewis in 1928

William Harvey and the circulation of the blood

Douglas Fisher Productions, UK 1978

Wellcome Films

Claudius Galenus (Galen)

Ad129 - 200

Vigneron (1789 - 1872)

http://wellcomelibrary.org/player/b16677948#?asi=0&ai=0
So.... more specifically ... how did we get ...

From this .... to this .....
Symbolism in Art

Art History

Surgeons

From ancient, Judao-Christian, Medieval chivalry, the Renaissance and Victorian sentimentality .... to modern and commercial
Man Holding Heart (Olmec Civilisation, Mexico fl 1500 BC) (picture: Justin Kerr)

The Weighing of the Heart from the Book of the Dead of Ani, c 1300 BC
Anubis weighing heart of Hunefer, c 1285 BC

Crucial role in Egyptian creation myth: Ptah conceives the world by the thought of his heart and gives life through the magic of his Word.
The Heritage of Greece and Rome

Greek mythology of Aphroditi and Eros – with Roman/Latin equivalent of Venus and Cupid

Important foundation for later concepts of romantic or spiritual love – both came to focus on the heart

11th century Byzantine
Hagia Sophia, Constantinople
Judaeo Christian

- 1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the lord said ... Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature ... the Lord seeth not as a man seeth: for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart*
- Psalms - Over 100 references - *He that hath a pure heart ...* (24:4)
- Proverbs 4:23 – *Keep thy heart with all diligence; or out of it are the issues of life* (metaphorically and literally)
- Matthew 5:8 – *Blessed are the pure in heart*
- Ecclesiastes 8:11 – as the seat of evil
Love and Caritas

Andrea Pisano, south doors
Florence Baptistery c 1337

Giotto, Arena Chapel Padua,
completed 1305
Giotto di Bondone, ‘Amor’, Lower Church, S Francesco, Assisi c 1330
Donatello, *The Miser’s Heart*, 1446
Giovanni di Paolo, St Catherine of Siena exchanges her Heart with Christ, 1460
Chivalry and the Crusades

Crusader hearts returned home
Richard the Lion Heart, 1199 and Sir Roger de Leybourne, 1270
Courtly love
*Roman de la Poire*, 1250
Chaucer's *Amor Vincit Omnia* (Canterbury Tales, begun 1386)

Of small coral aboute her arme she bar
A peire of bedes … and thereon heng a broche of gold full shene
On which there was first write a crowned A
And after, Amor Vincit Omnia
Romantic love saves ....

Heart-shaped bone pendant, Norwich castle museum

Crusader breast plate, Valetta, Malta
Fishpooool hoard

Part of largest hoard of coins ever found (1966) – British Museum (dating c 1464)
French Manuscript
Petit Livre d'Amour
(c. 1500)
Sacred Love French tapestry, c.1525
Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris
From ... Medical manuscript 1292

To ... Aldebrande of Florence, medical treatise, 1356
Alciato’s book of emblems 1531
Northern Europe

Meister Caspar, Venus, c 1470

Codex, Stuttgart 1486
Emblem of Martin Luther, from c 1520s

Portrait (Young man with heart as an ‘open book’), c 1480

Lucas Cranach, Saints adoring Christ Crucified on the Sacred Heart, 1505

And not forgetting Shakespeare ...

*Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight, for I ne'er saw true beauty till this night*

And Ophelia sadly mentions ‘... tomorrow is St Valentines'
Francesco Barberino, *Documenti di Amore* 1318
Printed version 1640
Blind Cupid - complete with arrows, roses and hearts!
St Teresa of Avila described her experience of religious ecstasy: 
*I saw in his hand a long spear of gold .. thrusting it into my heart, and to pierce my very entrails*
Philippe de Champaigne, *St Augustine*, 1645-50

Simon Vouet, *Heavenly Charity*, c 1640

Jacob de Gheyn, *Venus and Cupid*, c 1605
Sacred heart and the Jesuits

Mexican, 1770
Sacré Coeur, Montmartre, Paris late 19\textsuperscript{th} cent
Aztec, Indian – familiarity with heart

Aztec c 16th century

Indian, 14th century
Chinese Heart Symbol

心

xīn

heart
Victorian

Dante Gabriel Rossetti – and the beginnings of modern-day Valentines

Joli Coeur, 1867

Queen of Hearts, 1860
Edvard Munch (1863-1945)

The Heart, 1899

The Maiden and the Heart, 1896
20\textsuperscript{th} century

Joan Miro, \textit{Danseuse II}, 1925
Henri Matisse

*Heart of love enamoured, 1949*

*Icarus, 1946*
Frida Kahlo

The Two Fridas, 1939
David Hockney

Two Boys Together Clinging, 1961

The Most Beautiful Boy in the World, 1961
Roy Lichtenstein

Goodbye to Romance

1960s
Peter Blake

Motif Suite: Target, Rainbow, Heart, Star, 2010
Artist Damien Hirst hopes to make £330,000

The Immaculate Heart – Lost

The local butcher assured us that a pig’s heart is far better braised than skewered dramatically for art. But at just £1.93 this beast is a bargain whatever you do with it. Hours of internet trawling turned up the perfect dagger, which cost £12 from a site devoted to Pagan paraphernalia. It is now illegal to sell barbed wire in the UK so we fashioned our own artistic interpretation from a ball of wire costing £3.89.

Compiled by LAURA MOSS
United Colours of Benetton, 1996

Intended to stimulate discussion – on the inside we are all the same.
Modern symbols

San Francisco, public art

Broken Heart-- 💔
Sparkling Heart-- 💖
Growing Heart-- 💖
Heart with Arrow/ Fall in Love-- 💖larınız
Blue Heart-- 💙
Green Heart-- 💚
Yellow Heart-- 🟢
Red Heart-- 🛡
Purple Heart -- 💜
Heart with Ribbon-- 🌸

‘emoticons’
Not so happy
3 January displays!
Modern Commercialism

Valentine’s day Spending in the United States
In Billions of U.S. Dollars

Source: National Retail Federation
Back to the medical stuff

But *still* using the symbol not a realistic image