
ART SMART

2nd Grade / January

THEME:
Non-objective Art

WORKS:

1. Hans Hoffman, *Fall Euphony*
2. Paul Jenkins, *Phenomena Royal Violet Visitation*
3. Paul Klee, *Alter Klang (Ancient Harmony)*
4. Carlos Merida, *Cosmic Eye*
5. Piet Mondrian, *Composition, Blue, Red and Yellow*
6. Piet Mondrian, *Broadway Boogie Woogie*

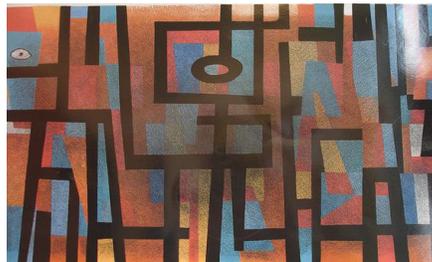
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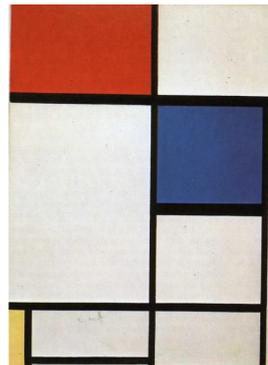
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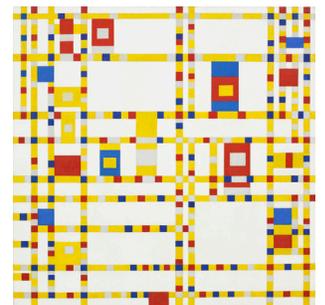
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4.



5.



6.

Art Smart - 2nd Grade
January - Non Objective Art

(Non Objective: no recognizable objects on the canvas)

Hans Hoffman, *Fall Euphony*
Paul Jenkins, *Phenomena Royal Violet Visitation*
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Hans Hoffman, *Fall Euphony*, 1959

What shapes do you see? The basic area of the painting is a horizontal rectangle. On it the artist has painted mostly vertical rectangles.

What colors do you see? Are they bold and bright or dull and faded?

Hoffman's colors contrast with one another in a vibrant way, they also tend to move backwards and forwards against each other.

Find the cool colors and the warm ones. Blue and other cool colors seem to recede (fade) into the distance while warm colors seem to advance (pop out) forward. Can you find the repeated warm colors that seem to move forward?

Do the shapes meet each other precisely or do they sometimes overlap?
The overlapping tends to hold the rectangles together as in a jigsaw puzzle.

Hans Hoffman was born in Germany and in 1931 he moved to the US and influenced American artists at that time when they were eager to understand European ideas but also to establish a uniquely American way of painting.

Paul Jenkins, *Phenomena Royal Violet Visitation*, 1977

What Subject does this painting suggest to you?
Now consider yourself only as tall as your hand in front of the painting, pretend to stand quite close to the center, how do you'll? Like a bird or a butterfly?

What shapes in this painting remind you of shapes found in nature? Feathers, leaves?

Can you see implied shapes? The triangle at the center of the painting, and can you find a semicircle?

Do you feel movement in this work? This vivid, flowing fan-like painting is a study in color and motion. Jenkins used no brushes, his technique was to pour the paint directly on the canvas and tilt to move the paint in certain directions. He sometimes worked with an ivory knife attached to a long stick so he might control the direction of the flow better.

Paul Klee, *Alter Klang (Ancient Harmony)*, 1925

Look carefully at this composition and think what it might resemble.
What shapes do you see? (he called his works “magic square”)
How are the colors arranged?

How might Paul Klee have made this painting? He was always exploring new ideas and new ways of creating. Many of his ideas for drawings and paintings came from music.

Using this checkerboard like grid he could make the colors “pulse” off one another by playing complementary colors off each other (yellow and violet)

The lightest colors are near the center of the painting and the darkest values enclose them.

Paul Klee, and artist was also like an inventor or scientist as he was always experimenting and exploring new ideas. Klee left nearly 9000 works.

Carlos Merida, *Cosmic Eye*, 1980

The title of this composition is Cosmic Eye, can you find the eye shape?
What other rounded shapes can you find?

Usually, we look at the center of a work of art first. Merida has played a trick here. The oval shape near the center is NOT the cosmic eye he named the print for, but only a copy of its general shape. What other rounded shapes can you find? (the end of the line and vertical oval in the lower right.)

Are the lines truly horizontal or vertical?

Where are the dullest, darkest tones? Near the center.

Do you think Merida was trying to communicate a message, or to present an arrangement of lines, shapes, and colors with this piece of art?

Carlos Merida believed that a work of art should be valued for its pleasing qualities alone, without being a picture of something else.

Piet Mondrian, *Composition, Blue, Red and Yellow*, 1930

Piet Mondrian painted for thirty years and never made a curved line!

How many rectangles are there in this painting? Don't forget the big rectangle shape of the whole painting.

Some of the rectangles have been filled with the 3 primary colors. Red, Blue and Yellow. He decided that the colors of nature could never be represented on canvas anyway, so he gave up "natural color" for "pure color", the primaries.

What other colors does he use? Black and white. How has he used each of these? White fills some of the rectangles, black makes lines that divide the picture plane.

Mondrian saw a tree not as a trunk and branches but as verticals and horizontals, like pluses and minuses. Mondrian declared that true art should not be an attempt to represent something else, but that it should exist as an object itself.

Piet Mondrian, *Broadway Boogie Woogie*, 1930

In 1939. Mondrian left Paris and emigrated to NYC to flee WWII. he settled in NYC and was fascinated by the metropolis and loved the pace of the city.

He spent countless hours listening to the jazz and boogie-woogie music in the night clubs.

This is one of his last masterpieces before his death.

Here Mondrian was interested in the rhythm of jazz. Where do you see rhythm (pattern) in this picture? Repetition of small squares.

Compare and contrast the 2 Mondrian paintings. What elements are similar, what are different?