VIEWING ABSTRACT ART

Using Technology with a High School Audience
“Directly in front of you is a Picasso that sold for $179.4 million. To your right, a Van Gogh worth eighty-two million. In the next room, a Giacometti that sold for a hundred and twenty-six million.”
The language of art should have subserviency to a vehicle. It is not art itself. Chiaroscuro, color, form, should always be subservient to the subject, and never raised to the dignity of an end.

River in the Catskills
Thomas Cole, American 1801-1848
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Abstract art does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use lines, shapes, forms, space and color to achieve its effect.

Definition: Tate Modern, London, UK
“The idea of abstraction,…is to hide the details.”
It requires recognizing patterns and distilling complexity into a precise, clear summary.

-Daniel Garcia, UC, Berkley

James Guy
United States, 1910 - 1983
Abstraction, 1944
HOW DOES THE ARTIST GET YOUR ATTENTION?
Unpacking the Elements of Art

Quatre panneaux gris et quatre figures
Four Grey Panels and Four Figures
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
2005.97 1-4
FERNAND LÉGER
Nature morte
LINE: A MARK WITH GREATER LENGTH THAN WIDTH

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Diagonal
- Curved

THICK

THIN
SHAPE: A CLOSED LINE

Shapes are two-dimensional, having only length and width.

A shape can be geometric.

Free form

Organic
SHAPE
FORMS: THREE-DIMENSIONAL SHAPES
FORM
SPACE: AREA AROUND AND BETWEEN OBJECTS

Also referred to as negative space

The illusion of depth

Lucio Fontana: “I do not want to make a painting; I want to open up space, create in a new dimension, tie in the cosmos, as it endlessly expands beyond the plane of the picture.”
SPACE
COLOR

Light reflected off objects

Hue, value, intensity
WHY DOES COLOR MATTER?
➤ HUE: pure color
➤ Value: brightness of color
➤ INTENSITY (saturation): range from pure color (100%) to gray (0%)
Pablo Picasso, Tête de Femme (Head of a Woman, Portrait of Marie-Thérèse Walter), 1934. Oil on canvas. Isabelle and Scott Black Collection. © 2015 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights

Torben Giehler

BOOGIE WOOGIE
1999
Torben Giehler
“Art, come down and play with us"

Choi Jeong Hwa
contemporary Korean Artist

Variations on a Greek Urn
1935–37
Byron Browne (American, 1907–1961)
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