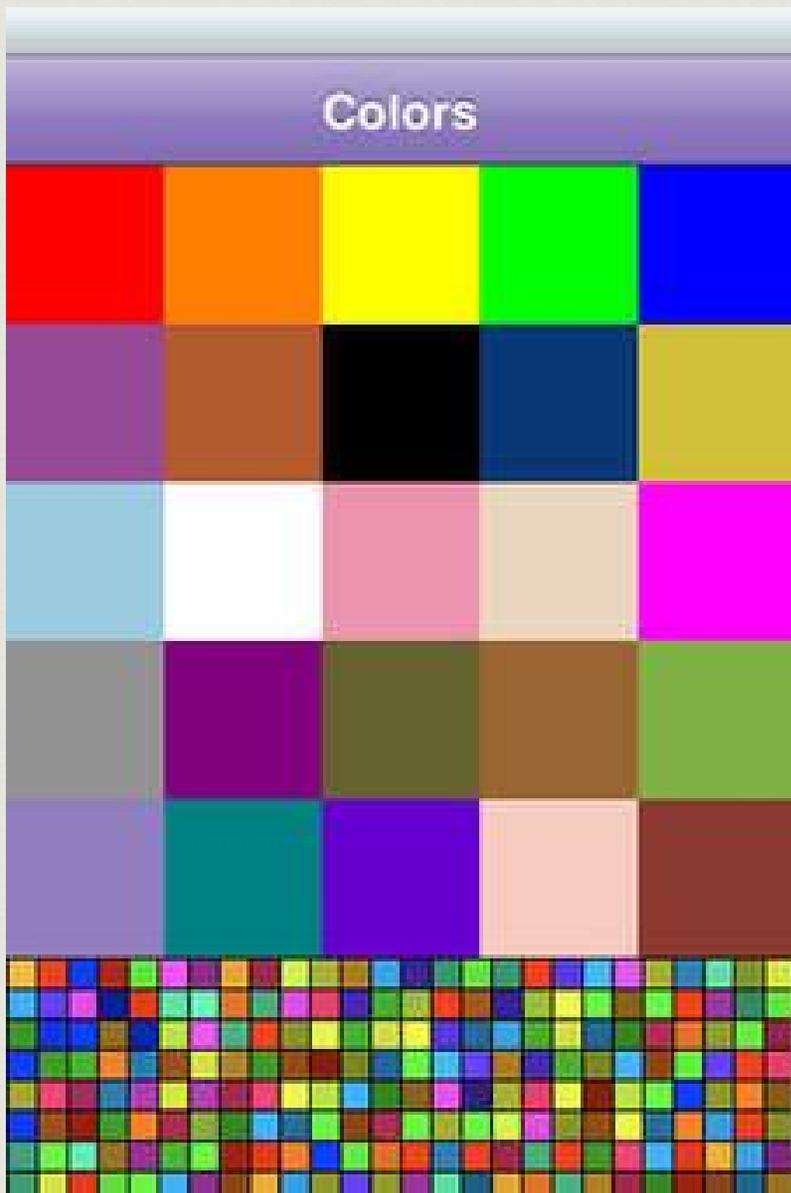


ABSTRACT



Looking to Find the Meaning
by Linda Bigness, BFA, MA



Most Abstract artworks use colors to tell a story or make us think of something or someplace. For example:

YELLOW can make us feel warm and happy, but it is also used as a warning, as in caution.

RED can make us feel hot and angry and is often used to stop us.

BLUE can make us feel cool and relaxed and is often used when describing a landscape or the horizon.

How do different colors make you feel?



COLORS

How many colors do we see in this painting?

How do the colors make you feel?

What do the colors make you think of?

Did the artist choose the colors to express meaning?



SHAPES

If we take away the color in the abstract painting, we are left with line and shapes. Sometimes the shapes will remind you of something.

Can you see different shapes in this painting?

What are they: circle, rectangle, square, triangle?

What do they make you think of?

Do you think the artist meant to make the shapes so that they remind us of something?



The painting on the left is in color and the one on the right is in black and white. How does the color change the painting? What do you see in the artwork? How does the painting make you feel? Can you identify shapes?



LINES

Lines are sometimes used in abstract artwork to show direction and movement. Sometimes the lines can make you think of energy, especially when the lines are vertical.

Other lines can make you think of resting as the horizontal lines in this artwork appear to be doing. However, if you look closely they are also traveling throughout the picture space. Sometimes the lines appear to be leaving the picture space.

What are some of the things that lines in this painting make you think of?

What activity do they make you think of?

How do you think the artist was feeling when he created this painting?

ABSTRACT ARTISTS IN HISTORY



Wassily Kandinsky; Russian: December 1866 - December 1944) was an influential Russian painter and art theorist. He is credited with painting the first purely abstract works.

How do the colors, shapes and lines in this painting make you feel? What do you see? Did Kandinsky mean for you to see what you feel?

What parts of the painting stand out the most? Is it the color, the shapes, or the lines?

Do all the parts work together to make this abstract painting?

Lee Krasner | abstract collages

Lee Krasner (October 27, 1908 – June 19, 1984) was an influential American abstract expressionist



How is color used in the collage?

Are the collaged pieces similar to line?

What do the collaged pieces make you think of?

Do you see nature in this artwork?

Does this work remind you of writing and why?

ABSTRACT SCULPTURE

Louise Nevelson
(American, born Ukraine.
1899–1988)



Sky Cathedral consists of boxes stacked against a wall, each compartment filled with wooden scraps including moldings, dowels, spindles, and furniture parts. Nevelson then covered the entire assemblage with black paint, both unifying the composition and obscuring the individual objects. She once explained her fascination with the color black: “When I fell in love with black, it contained all color. It wasn’t a negation of color. It was an acceptance. Because black encompasses all colors. Black is the most aristocratic color of all. ... You can be quiet and it contains the whole thing.”¹

In what way does this sculpture remind you of collage?

HAIKU USING ABSTRACT WORDS

Color

Line

Collage

Shape

Energy

Meaning

Painting

Caution

Happy

Angry

Peaceful

Warm

Hot

Cool

Circle

Square

Rectangle

Triangle

A shape brings in Spring,

The birds wing a triangle;

Its head a circle.

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Bradley Hudson, Pg. 6

Exhibiting Artists in:

LUMINOUS JOURNEYS THROUGH THE ABSTRACT
An invitational exhibit curated by Linda Bigness
April 3 - May 31, 2014
Kirkland Art Center
Clinton, New York