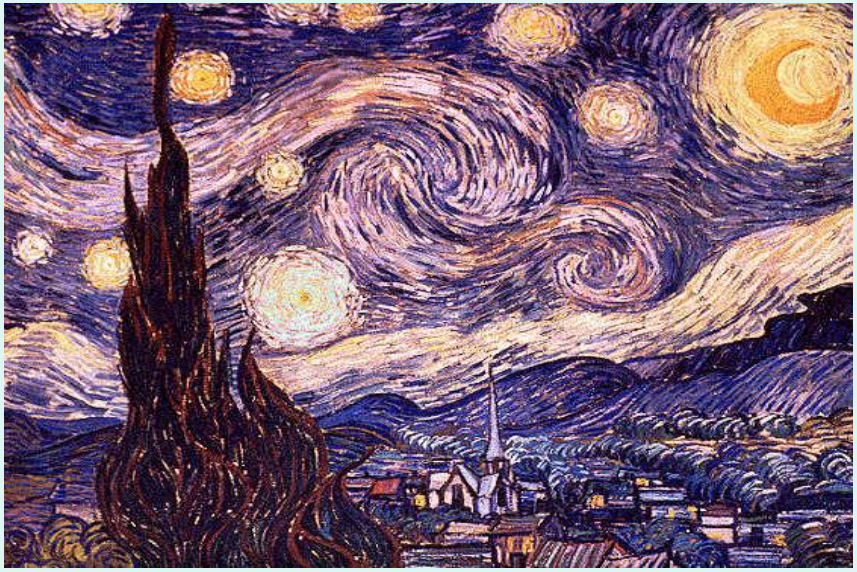
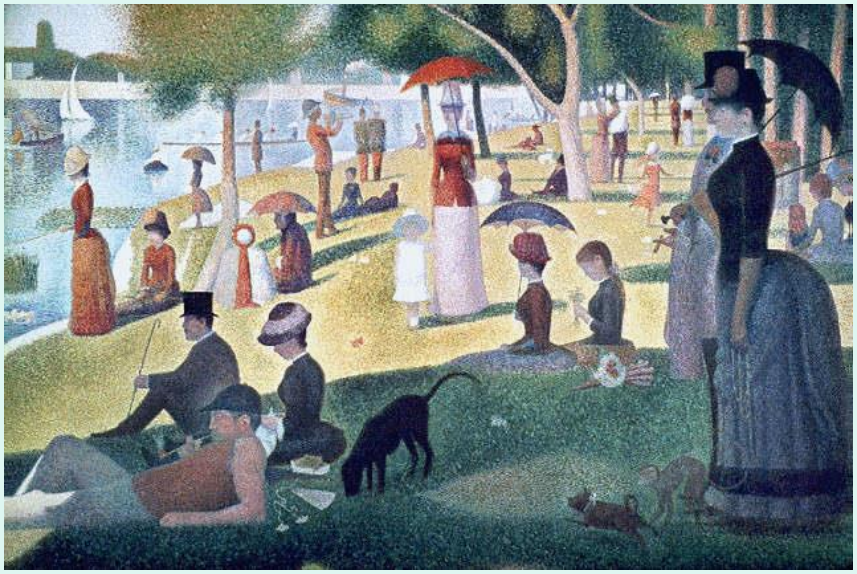

What is
Abstract Art?



Van Gogh – 'Starry Starry Night'

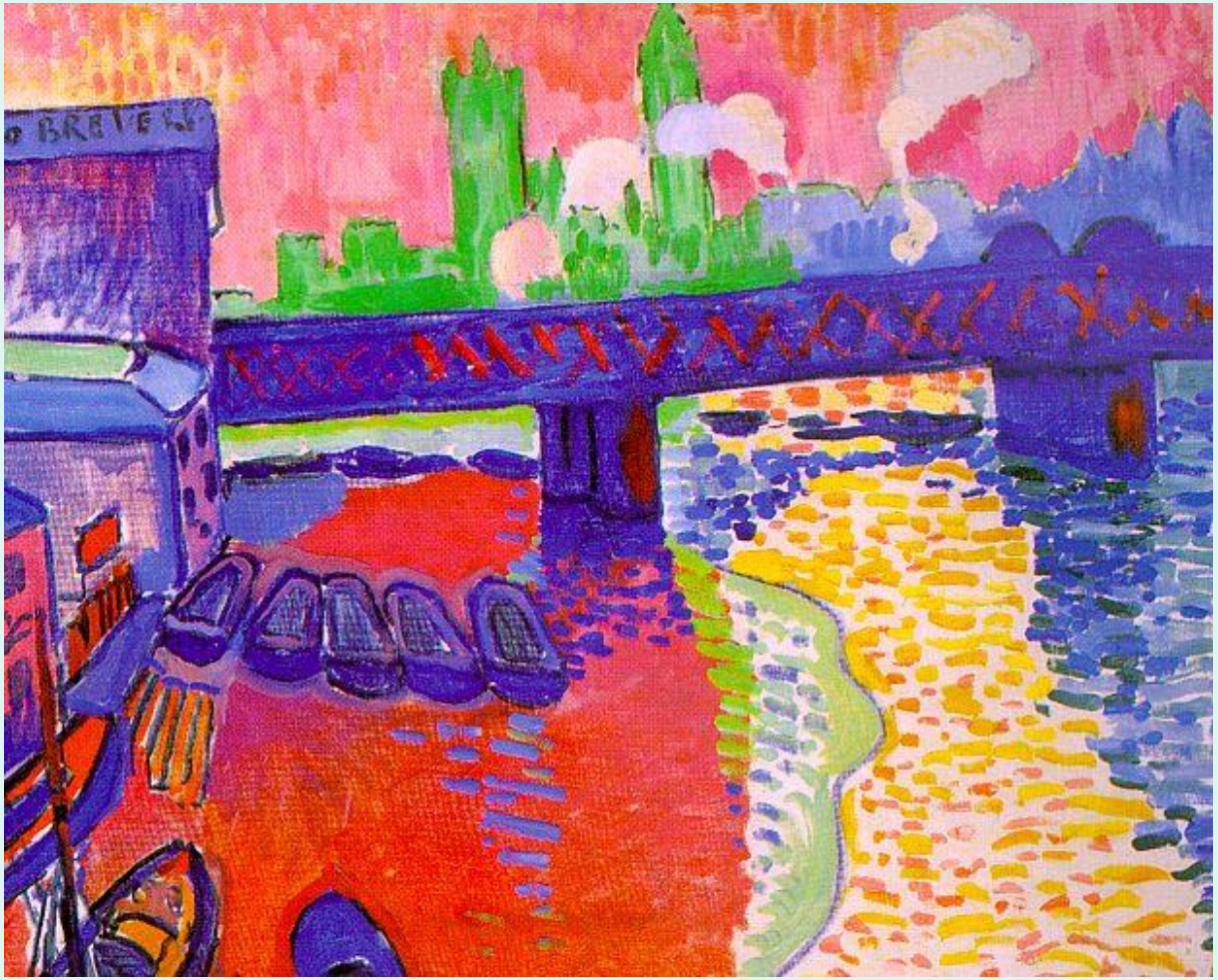


Seurat – 'La Grande Jatte'

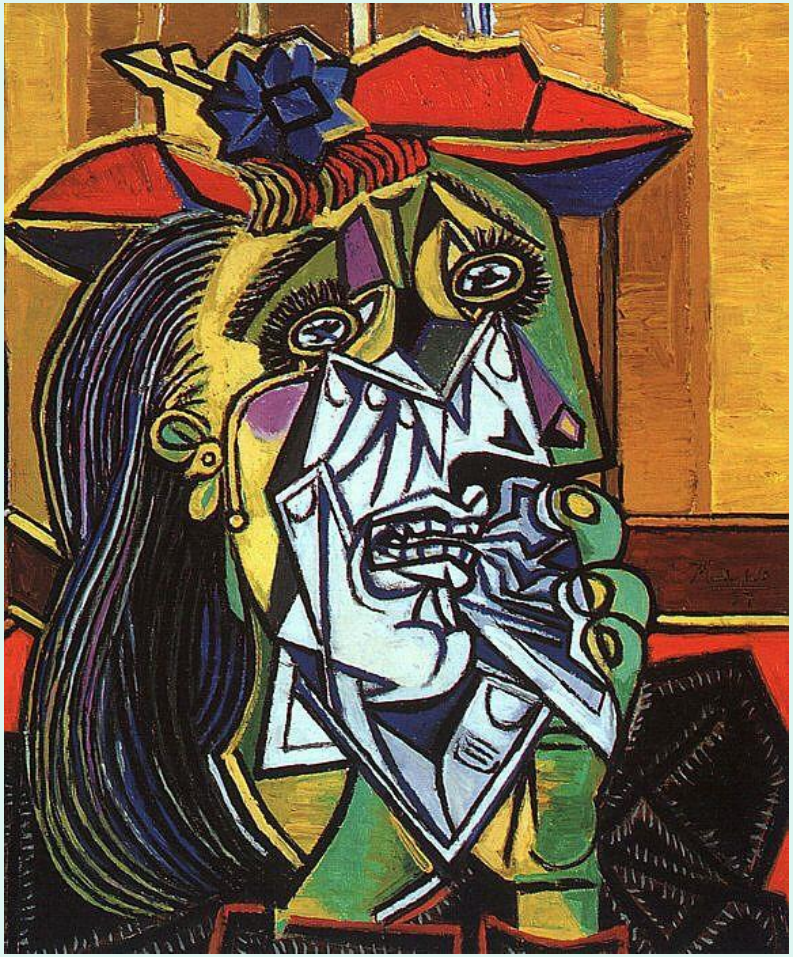
Before abstract art was invented, most artists painted in a realistic style.

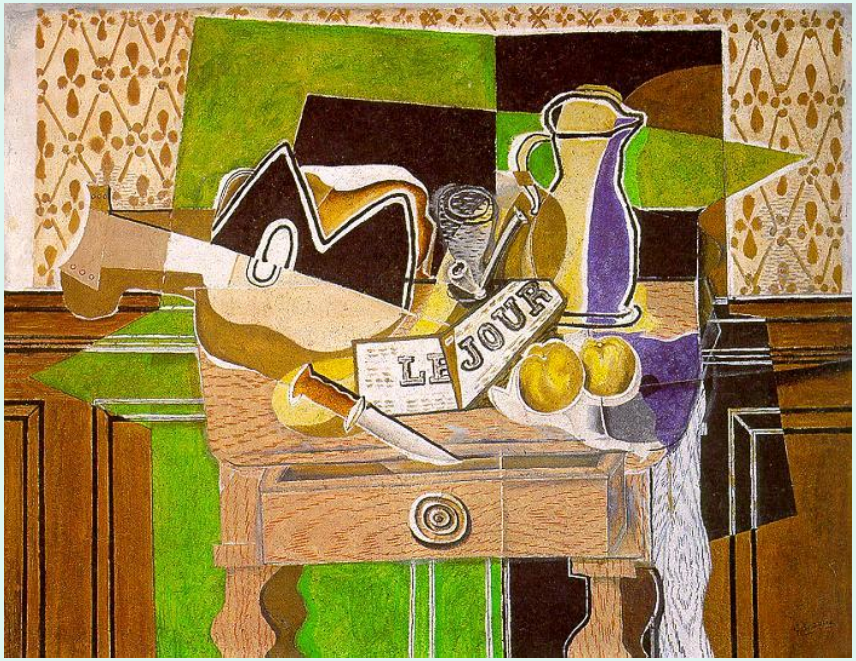
This began to change when artists such as Van Gogh and Seurat started to simplify their pictures.

Around 1900, a group of artists called the Fauvists began to simplify their shapes, and change their colours even more.



GRADUALLY, ARTISTS THOUGHT LESS ABOUT THE SUBJECT MATTER, AND MORE ABOUT THE SHAPES AND COLOURS IN THEIR PAINTINGS.





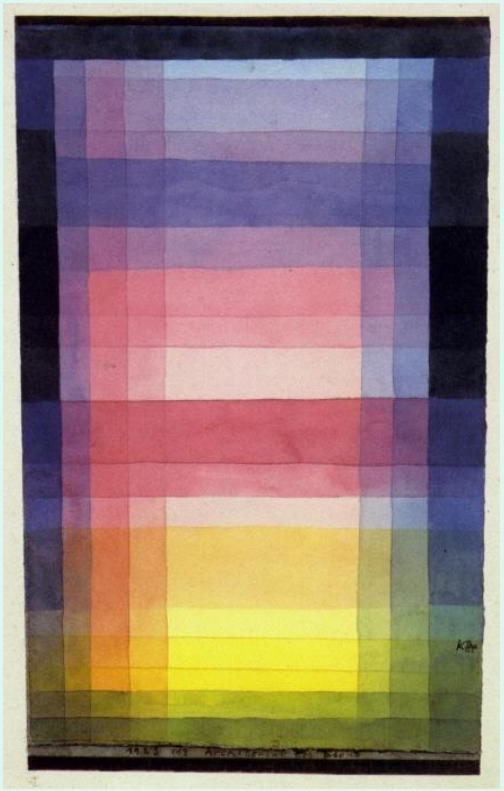
Cubism began around 1910.

Picasso is the most famous Cubist artist.

Abstract art can be very simple like this painting by the American artist Barnet Newman. In paintings like this, the artist is exploring different colour combinations which may affect the way the person looking at the picture might feel. These types of paintings are often very large, so that you are almost surrounded by them.



The painting below is by Paul Klee. It is fully abstract because it only contains colours and shapes and patterns.





Wassilly Kandinsky was one of the first artists to paint abstract paintings. The painting here is semi-abstract because there are some things in it that are recognisable.



Some of the earliest abstract paintings were called Futurism.

These paintings were about the new machines like aeroplanes, automobiles, and trains, and were an attempt to capture a feeling of movement.



Abstract Painting really took off in the 1920's and 1930's with Kandinsky and Mondrian.



This painting is by Kandinsky.

It is called ‘Yellow, Red, Blue’ and was painted in 1925



"Abstract art is any art which does not contain figurative or representational content.

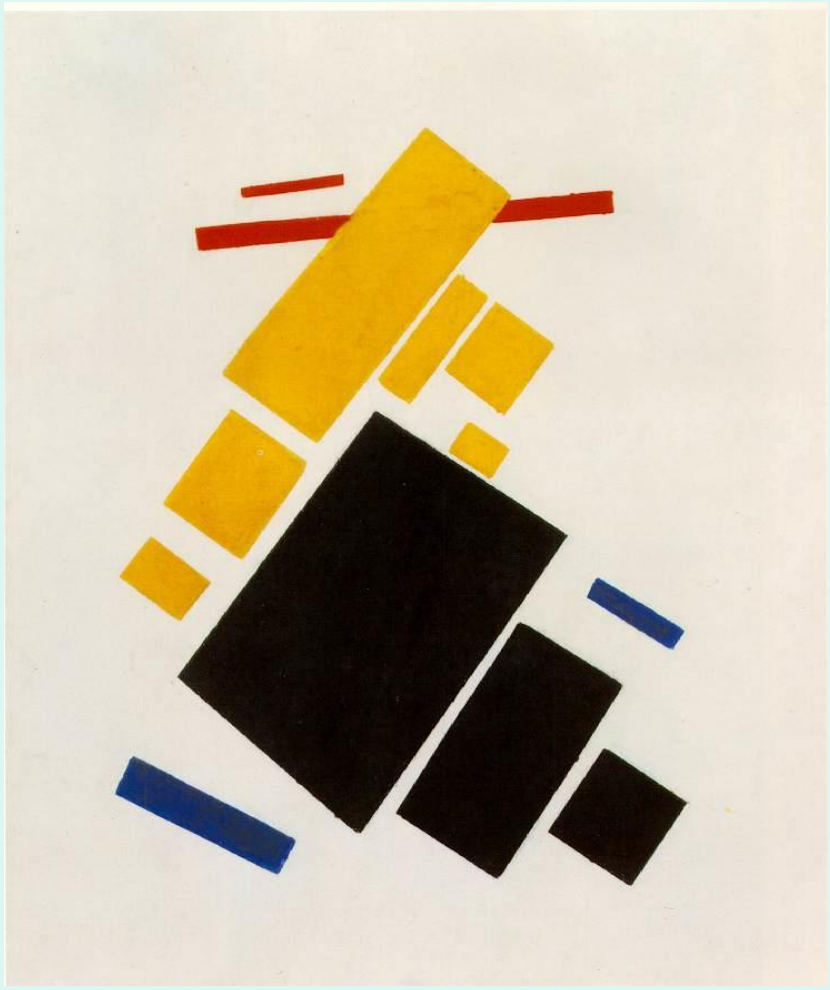
A true abstract painting is composed only of shapes and colours.

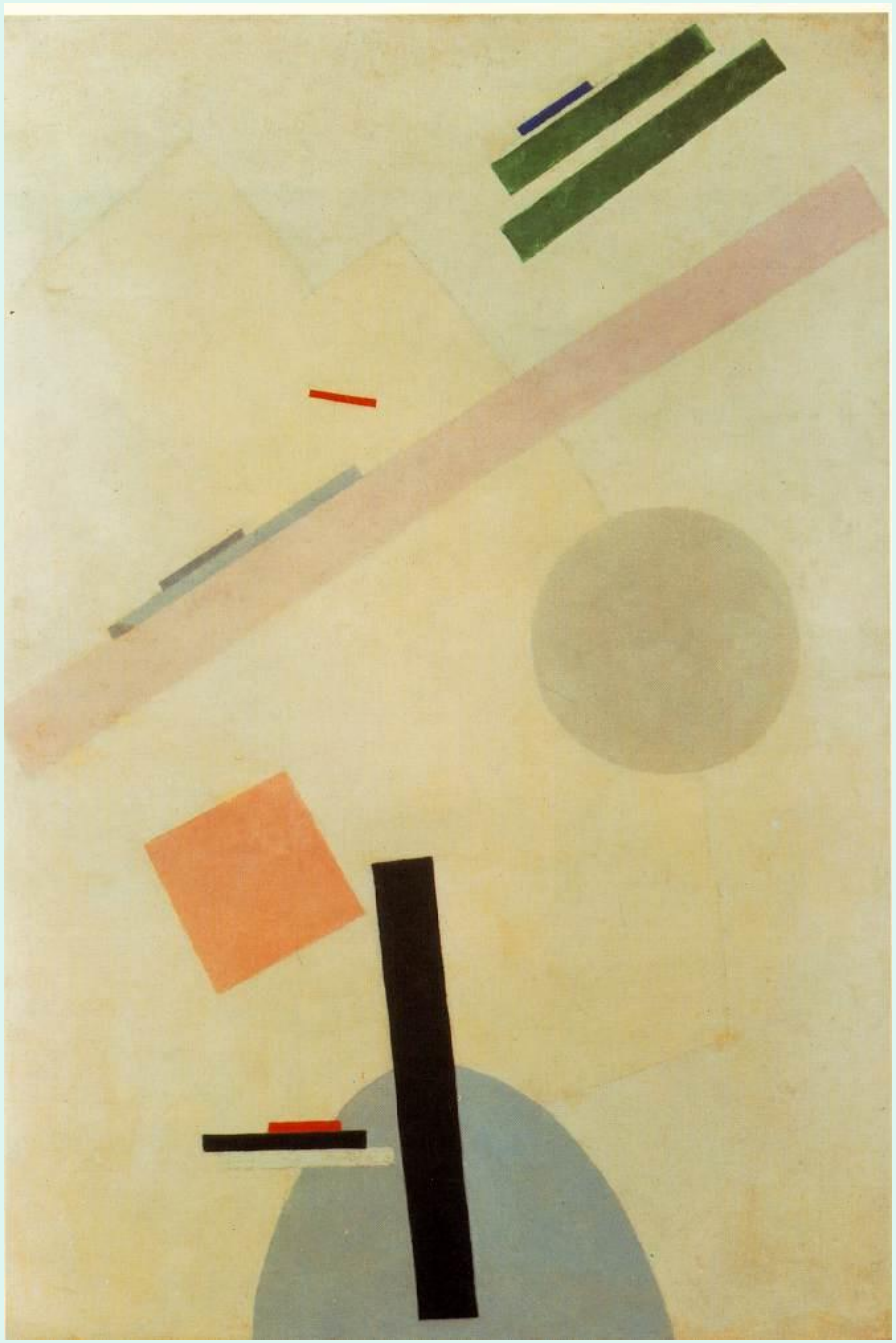
This is a semi-abstract painting by kandinsky.

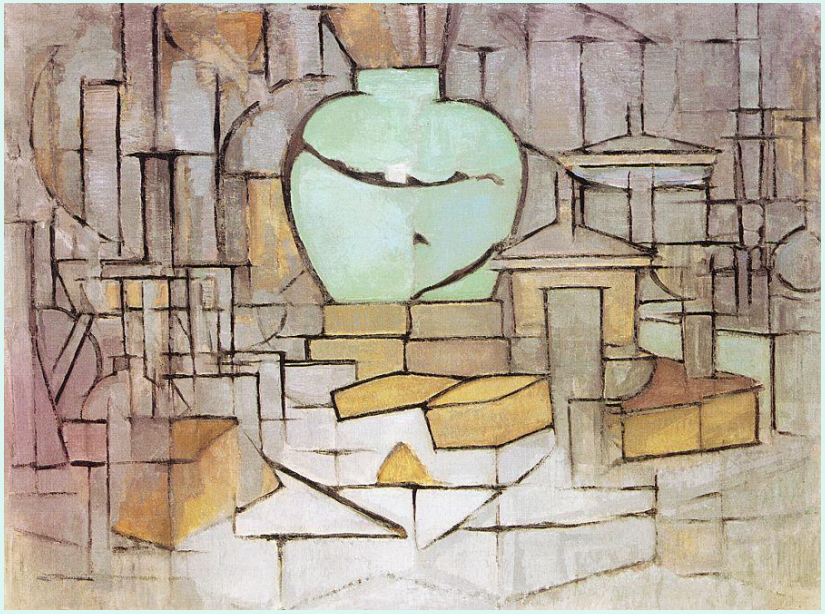
Some objects in it are recognisable.

What can you see?

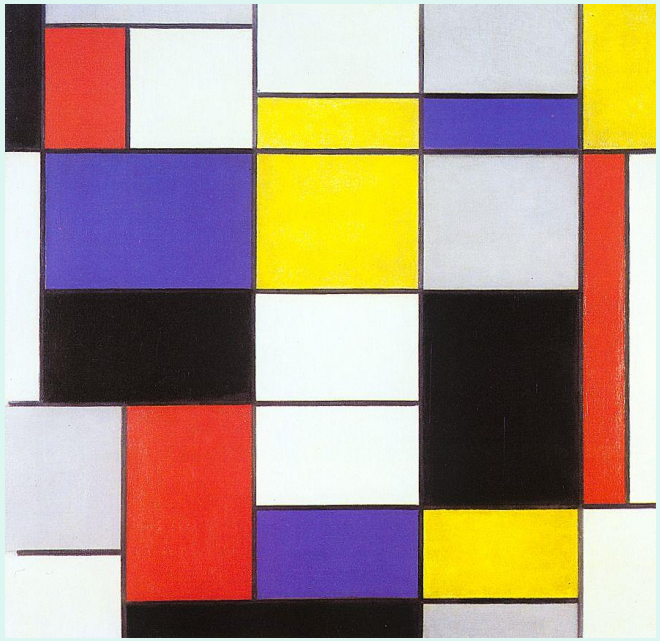
Some early abstract paintings.

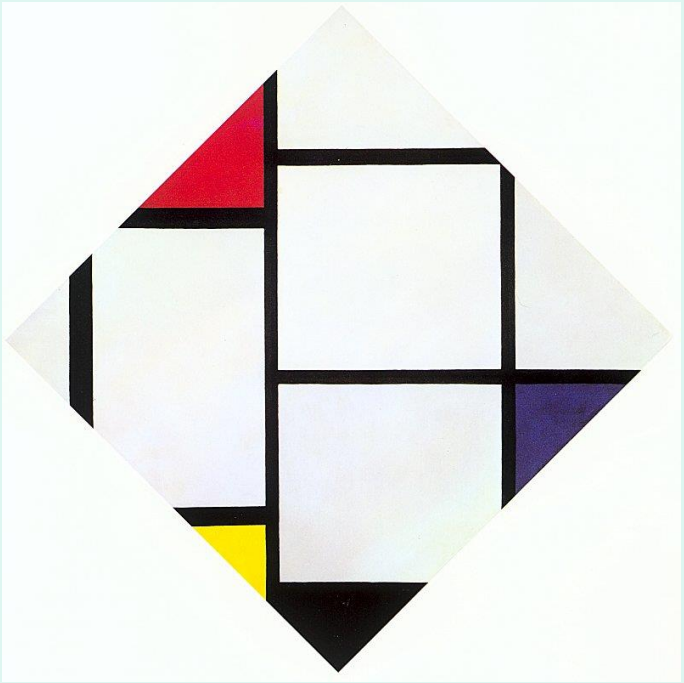


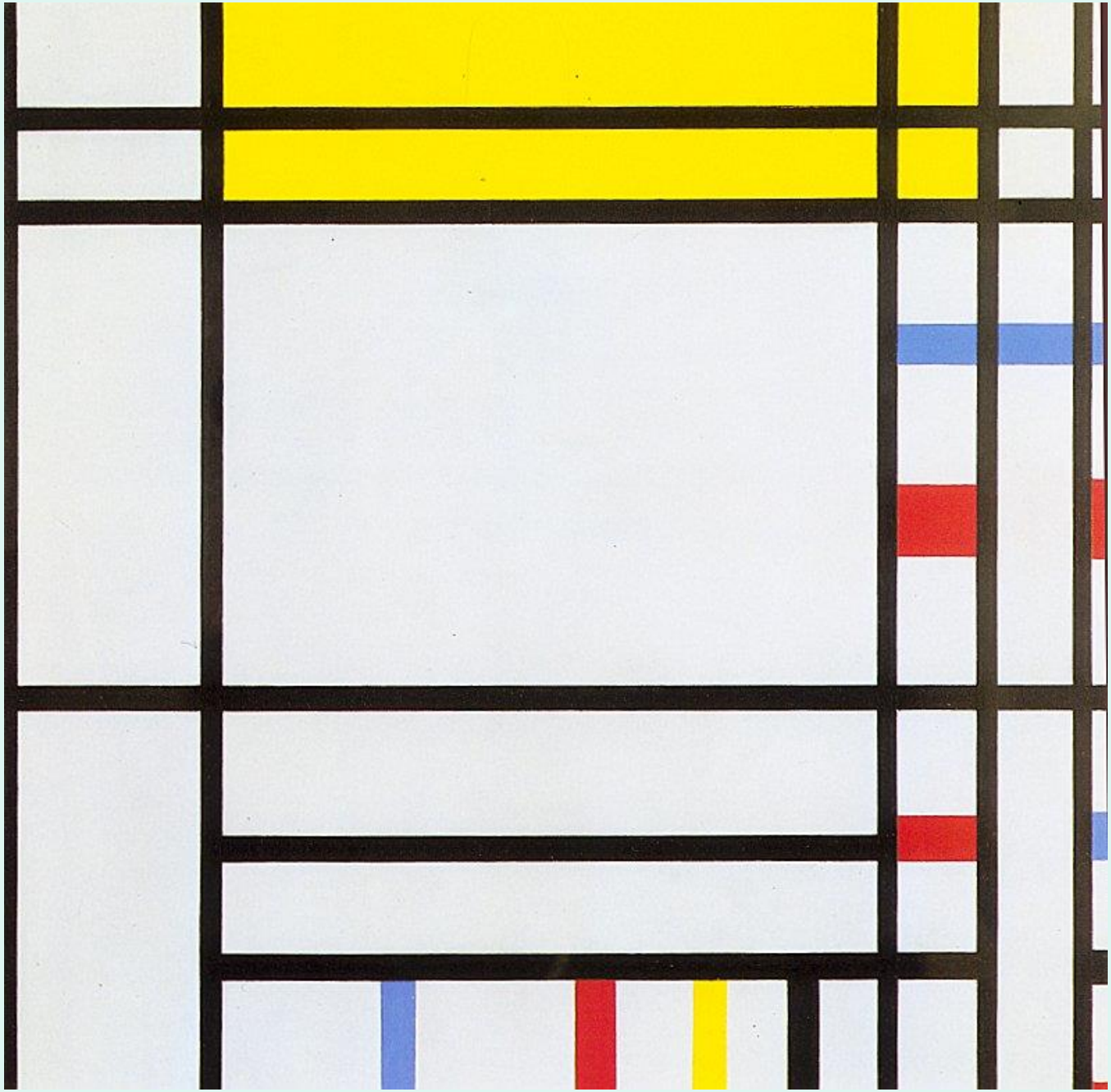


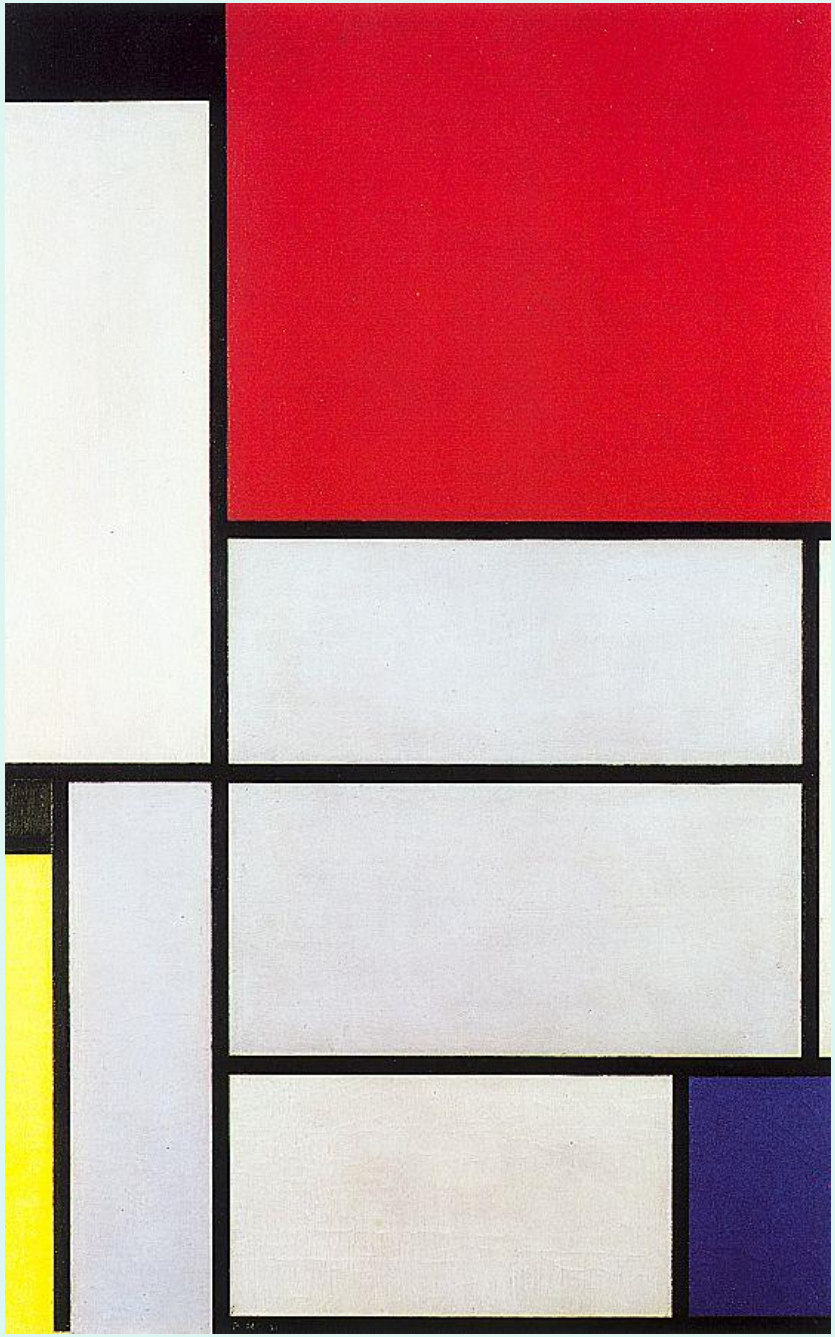


Piet Mondrian used a process of simplification which led him to produce his famous geometric abstracts









Mondrian is famous for using primary colours, 90° angles, and thick black lines.

"After the war New York became the Mecca of abstract art and the term Abstract Expressionist was coined to describe painters like Rothko and Pollock."



Mark Rothko

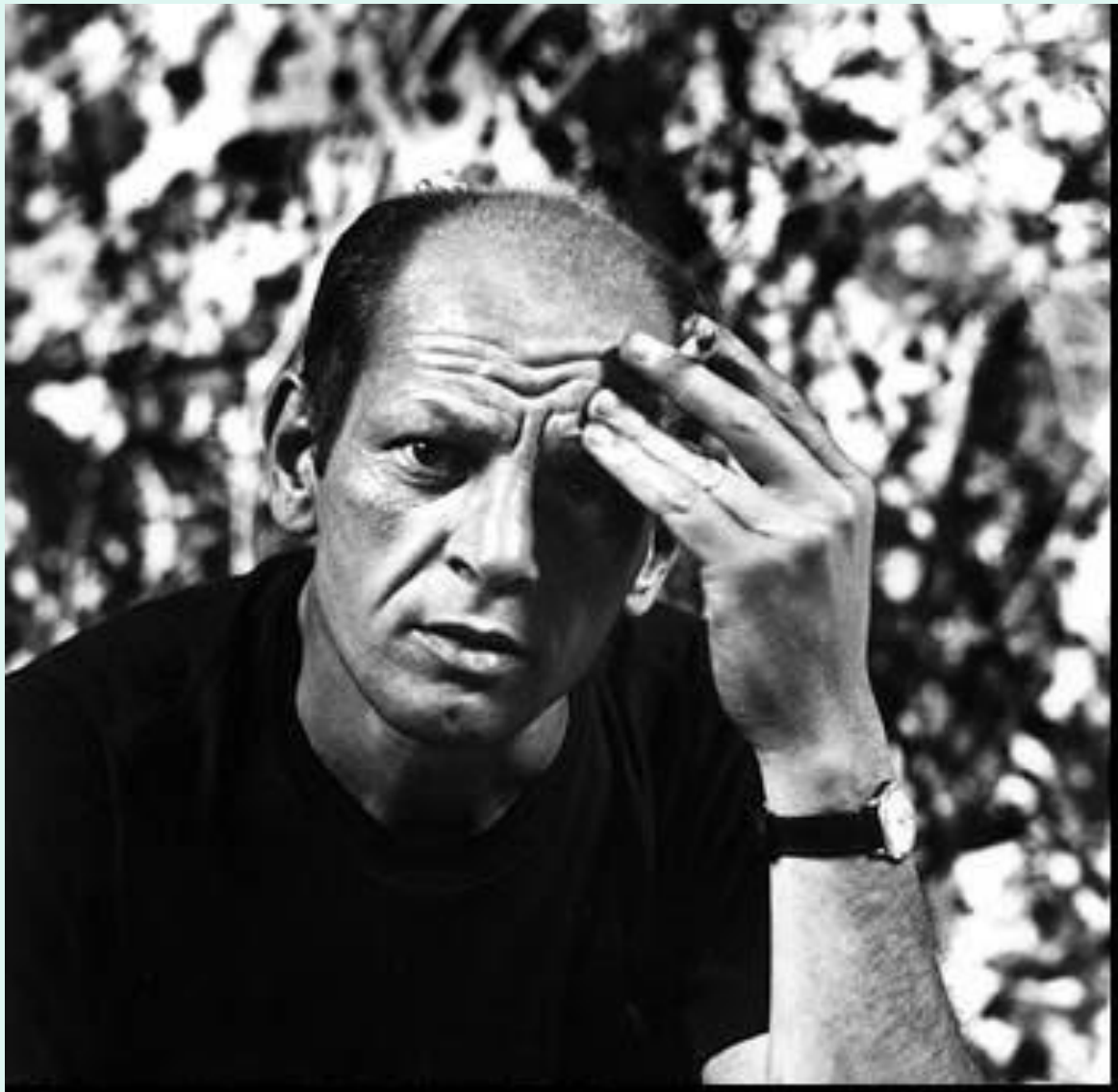
Just as a piece of instrumental music is composed only of sounds, so an abstract painting is an attempt to convey a mood through the use of colour, shape and texture."

Mark Rothko




©Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, UNL


Jackson
Pollock



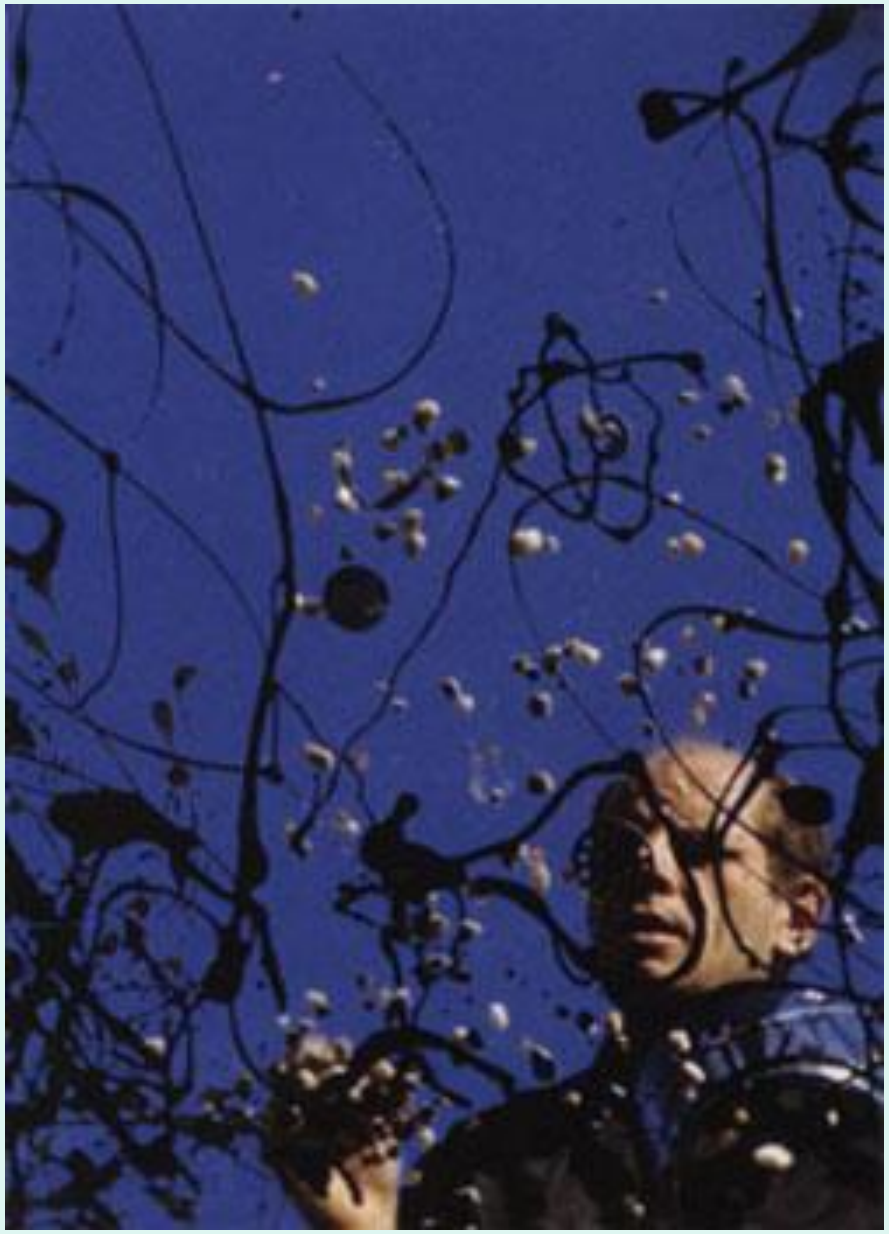
JACKSON POLLOCK

1912-1956

Photograph © 1999 Estate of Hans Namuth , courtesy Pollock=Krasner House

BEGIN





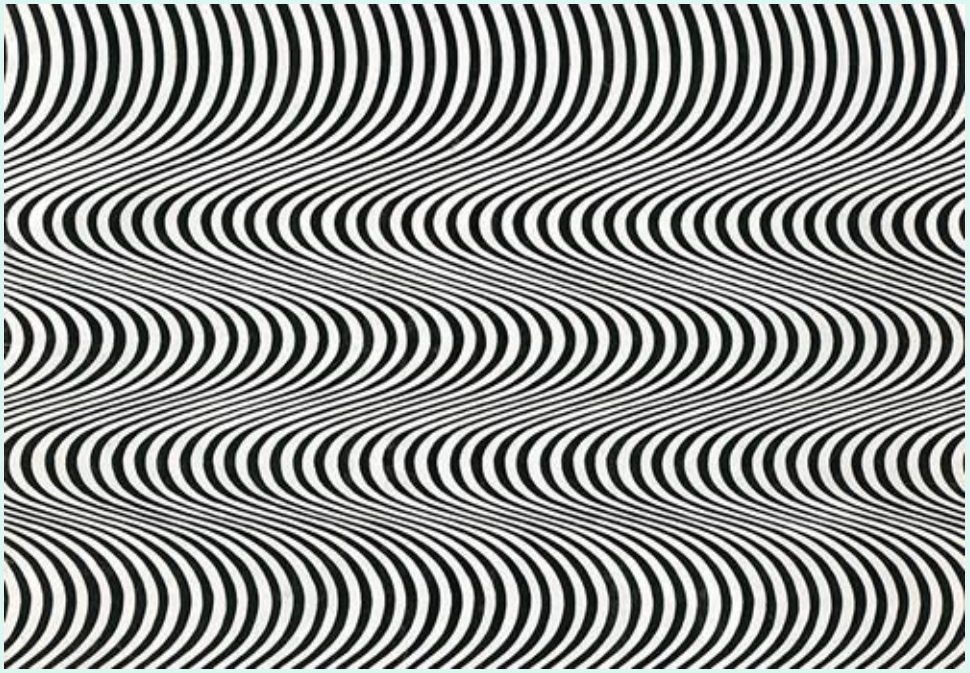
Jackson Pollock painted huge canvasses by flicking, pouring, and dripping the paint. He was given the nickname 'Jack the Dripper'







"In the UK prominent artist's included Howard Hodgkin, Patrick Heron and later Bridget Riley with her dizzying 'Op Art' images."



Bridget Riley

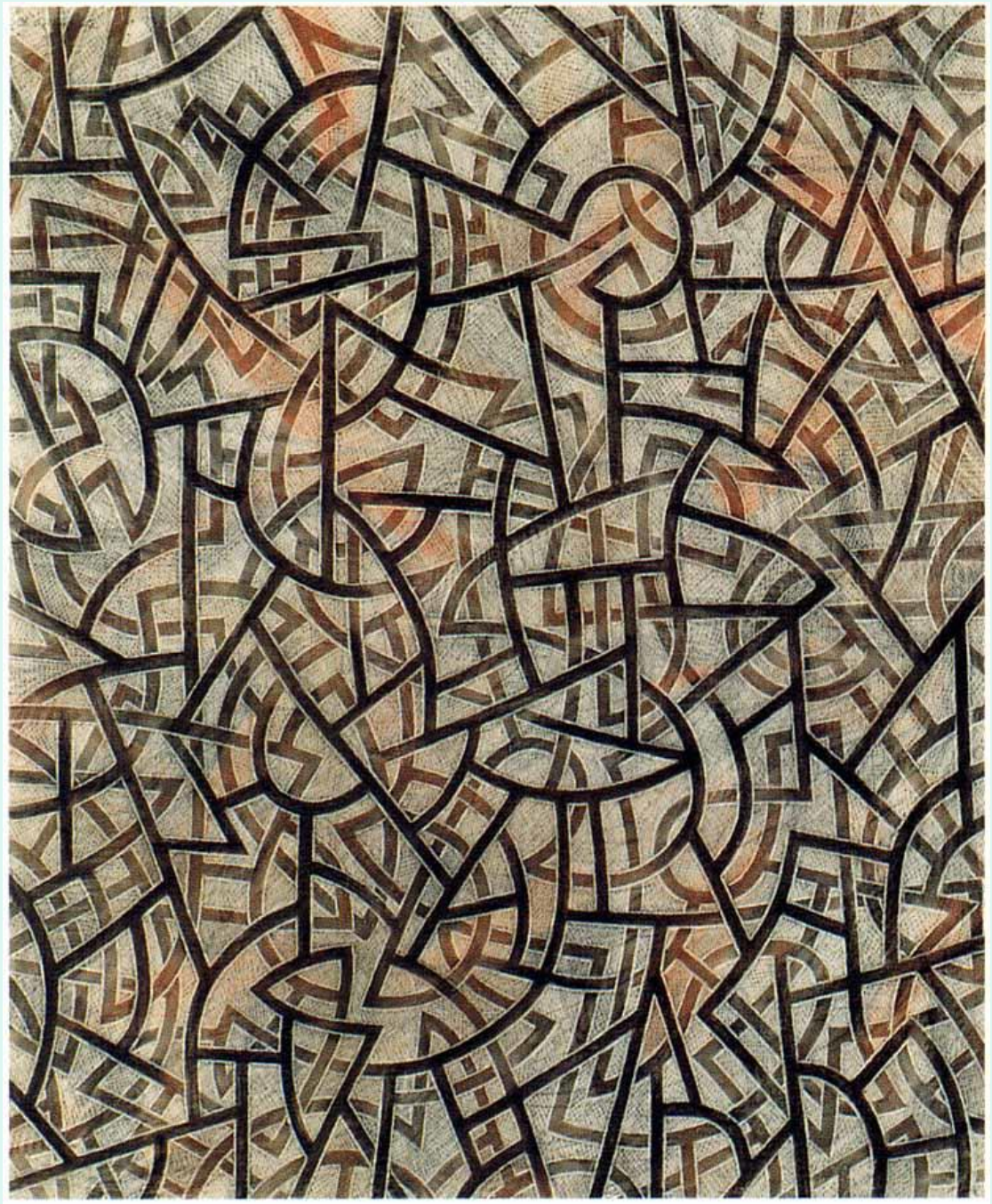




The artist Tom Phillips makes paintings and drawings based on natural forms







The many layers in Tom Phillips paintings makes them interesting to look at.

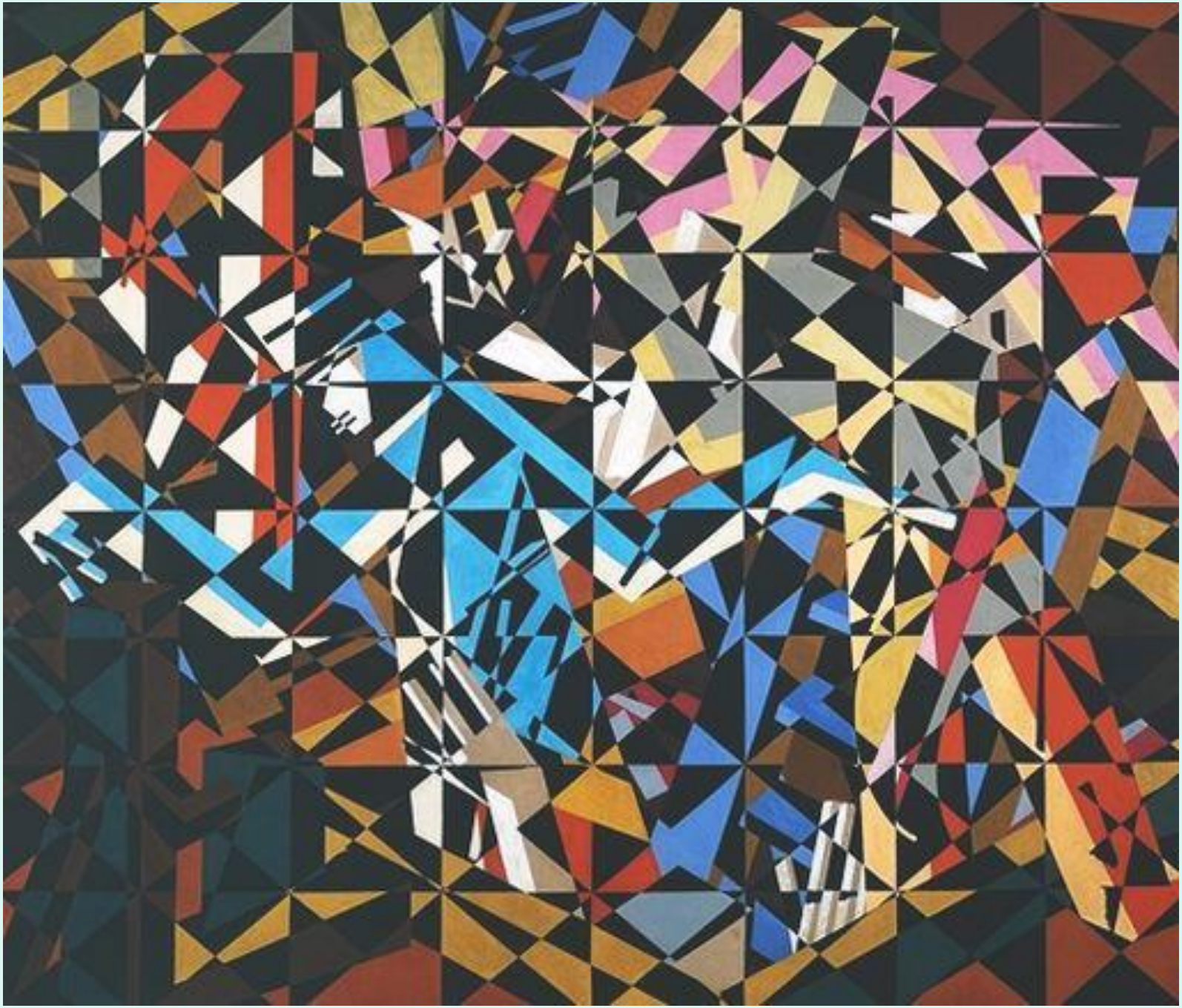
An abstract painting doesn't have to be simple.





The English artist David Bomberg painted these paintings in 1913.

Can you see anything in them?





The Mud Bath (1914)



1920

Other examples of Abstract art…

