

Exploring the World of Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the core concepts of abstract art, including non-representational forms, colour theory, and emotional expression.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of abstract art. Zara the Zebra suggests looking at patterns in nature to help you understand how artists simplify the world around them.

What is Abstract Art?

Abstract art is a style that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of visual reality, instead using shapes, colours, forms, and gestural marks to achieve its effect.

Define 'Non-representational' art.

This is art that does not look like anything from the real world; it focuses entirely on the elements of art such as line, shape, and colour.

What is the difference between geometric and organic shapes?

Geometric shapes are precise and mathematical (like squares and circles), while organic shapes are irregular, free-flowing, and inspired by nature.

Why might an abstract artist use a limited colour palette?

To create a specific mood or to focus the viewer's attention on the shapes and composition rather than being distracted by a wide variety of colours.

What is 'Composition' in an abstract painting?

Composition refers to how the artist arranges the visual elements within the space of the canvas to create balance, movement, or tension.

What is a 'Focal Point'?

The focal point is the area of an artwork that first attracts the viewer's attention, often created through contrast, size, or unique texture.

How can texture be used in abstract art?

Texture can be created through thick paint application (impasto), adding materials like sand or paper, or by using varied brushstrokes to create a sense of depth and touch.

Explain the role of 'Contrast' in abstract art.

Contrast involves using opposing elements, such as light versus dark, smooth versus rough, or complementary colours, to make the artwork more dynamic.

What is 'Expressionism' in the context of abstract art?

It is a style where the artist uses bold colours and distorted shapes to express deep emotions rather than showing the physical world.

Why do artists choose to paint abstractly?

Artists often choose abstraction to explore feelings, ideas, or the beauty of the materials themselves, allowing the viewer to interpret the work in their own unique way.