

Zara's Guide to the Abstract World

Unleash your imagination: If you can feel it, you can paint it!

- Abstract art focuses on the arrangement of lines, shapes, and colours rather than trying to recreate a realistic scene from life.
- Geometric shapes like squares and triangles often provide a sense of structure and order to an abstract composition.
- Organic shapes are irregular and curved, often inspired by nature, which can make an abstract piece feel fluid and alive.
- Artists use 'impasto' techniques—applying thick layers of paint—to add physical texture, allowing the canvas to cast its own shadows.
- Negative space is just as important as the painted areas; it allows the viewer's eye to rest and balances the intensity of the colours.

Did you know? Did you know that some abstract artists believe that colour has its own 'vibration'? They choose specific palettes not to represent things they see in the real world, but to influence the mood of the viewer, using cool blues for calm or sharp, jagged red lines to suggest energy and movement.

Key vocabulary: Abstract · Non-representational · Composition · Vibrant · Geometric · Organic · Texture · Impression