

Approaches to Abstract Painting



Blue and Green Music
Georgia O'Keeffe



Wassily Kandinsky, *Improvisation XIV*

Some Abstract artists select and then exaggerate or simplify the forms suggested by the world around them.

Some Abstract painter focus on an art element or principle as the "subject matter".



1924 (first abstract painting, Chelsea)
by Ben Nicholson

Focus element:
Shape



Red Trees by Francis Picabia uses a very limited color palette.

Focus Element:
Value



*Green, Black and
White Movement*
by Terry Frost

Focus element:
Rhythm



Franz Kline, *Untitled*

Abstract Expressionists typically applied paint in an effort to show feelings and emotions, sometimes applying paint with large brushes, sometimes dripping or even throwing it onto canvas. Their work is characterized by a strong dependence on what appears to be accident and chance, but which is actually highly planned.



An image can be stylized in order to create an abstraction.

Only One, by Georgia O'Keeffe is a stylized aerial view of a river winding through a barren Southwestern U.S. landscape.



Breath
by Gerhard Richter



By Vera Curnow















