

Arthur Dove Biography and Art Project

Name: _____

Directions:

1. First, read "Arthur Dove: An American Painter" and answer the questions on the following worksheet.
2. Next, read and follow directions on the page called Arthur Dove Landscapes. You will need the following materials:
 - Drawing paper
 - Colored pencils or markers
 - Pencil
 - Sharpie
3. When you are done, turn in this packet and your completed artwork to your class box.

Arthur Dove: An American Painter

Arthur Garfield Dove was born in 1880 in Geneva, New York, where his father was a building contractor and brick manufacturer. He attended Cornell University in Ithaca, from which he graduated in 1903. He then moved to New York City, where he worked as an illustrator for various popular magazines for several years.

When he was young, Arthur Dove traveled to Paris to explore the art and architecture, and to meet other young artists. Returning to New York, Dove met an important artist and art gallery owner named Alfred Stieglitz, who was responsible for starting the careers of several notable artists, including Georgia O'Keeffe. In 1912, Dove's first one-person show was held at 291, a New York City art gallery owned by Stieglitz. This important exhibition helped establish Dove as an important American painter.

In 1910 and 1911, Dove created a number of exciting works of art that used simple, abstract forms at a remarkably early date in American art; he is considered the first American artist to have created such purely non-representational images. His non-representational images showed simple lines, colors, and shapes instead of a realistic view of the world.

In 1932, Dove married the artist Helen Torr, nicknamed "Reds." Dove and Reds began living together on a houseboat docked on the north shore of Long Island, New York. Dove's main subject for his art was the local landscape, which he painted using simple forms and emotional color.

Dove's first-hand experience of the ocean tides, weather patterns, and seasonal cycles also influenced these works. Other influences included sunsets, bodies of water, mountains, and other natural forms. Dove was fascinated with cycles of growth and renewal in nature, and he was interested in using nature and natural forms in his art. He was also frequently inspired by music.

In 1933, Dove moved to Geneva, New York with Reds and lived on his family's property, even though he did not want to leave Long Island. Despite his reluctance to move to Geneva, which he considered too isolated, Dove remained there with Reds through 1938. Geneva provided him with new subject matter for his art, including the family farm, the local barnyard animals, and nearby lakes, as well as the city's more industrial downtown area of warehouses, machines, and railroads.

In 1938, Dove and Reds returned to Long Island and rented a small house, a former post office that stood directly on the shore of a mill pond in Centerport. Forced to live a sedentary life after a heart attack and a diagnosis of severe kidney disease, Dove was unable to leave his home. His paintings still showed the natural world, and he painted what he saw from his window.

Dove continued to work into the last year of his life; he died after suffering a heart attack in 1946, only a few months after his friend Stieglitz had passed away. Until his final days, his diary entries recorded his artistic goals alongside observations of the natural surroundings. His reputation continued to grow after his death, and he is credited with being the first abstract American artist.

Arthur Dove: An American Painter Reading Questions

Read the passage above and write your answers to the questions below.

1. Based on the passage, the phrase non-representational means:

2. Arthur Dove was born in:

3. Who was Alfred Stieglitz?

4. What parts of nature was Arthur Dove influenced by?

5. According to the passage above, the word reluctance means:

6. Why did Arthur Dove stop painting?

Arthur Dove Activity

Name: _____

Directions: Read *Arthur Dove: An American Painter* and then choose ONE of the activities below.

Option 1: Write a Letter

Imagine that you are the owner of a successful art gallery, and you are putting together an exhibition. Write a letter to Arthur Dove that explains why you have chosen him as a star artist in your exhibition. Or, write a (respectful!) rejection letter to Dove explaining why you think his art does not belong in your gallery.

Option 2: Draw a comic

Using colored pencils and sketch paper, draw a comic that represents key moments in Arthur Dove's life. Use *Arthur Dove: An American Painter* to get your ideas for your comic. Make sure your comic contains words AND images. It should be neatly drawn, fully colored in, and very detailed.

Use the space below to plan and/or sketch for your letter or comic.

Arthur Dove Artwork Short Answer

Directions: View hard copies or research Arthur Dove artworks online. Write your answers to the following questions. Write in complete sentences and elaborate your answers.

Describe the way that Dove is using lines in each image. Remember your line vocabulary words.

Describe the ways that Dove is using colors in each image.

Describe the way that Dove is using shapes in each image. What kind of shapes do you see?

How is Dove making nature look different than it does in real life?

Do you think these artworks are successful in making nature look abstract? Why or why not?

Arthur Dove Landscape Project

Directions:

You will create your own Dove-inspired landscape. Follow the four steps below, and use ONLY 1 piece of sulphite paper, pencils, a sharpie, and colored pencils to complete your drawing. Your finished drawing should be NEAT and COMPLETE, with your ENTIRE paper colored in carefully! No white space should be showing. Use your OWN ideas, and do not copy anyone else's artwork.

Step 1: Draw the horizon line across your paper.

Step 2: Use contour lines to draw your landscape. Space your lines close together--about 1-2 cm. Your lines should be curved, with lots of movement. Consider putting the following natural elements in your drawing:

- Different types of trees
- Flowers, small plants
- Weather: rain, stormy skies, sunset, etc.
- Animals
- A specific location: beach, farm, forest, or desert

Step 3: Outline ALL of your pencil lines with a black marker.

Step 4: Fill in your design with bright, contrasting colors. Color NEATLY and make sure no white space is showing!

Arthur Dove Artworks



Arthur Dove, *Sun*, 1943



Arthur Dove, *Morning Sun*, 1940



Arthur Dove, *Red Sun*, 1935



Arthur Dove, *Ice and Clouds*, 1931



Arthur Dove, *Thundershower*, 1939



Arthur Dove, *Plant Forms*, 1912