

# abstract

See definitions in:

All

Grammar

Art

Crime



*adjective*

/ˈabstrakt/

2. relating to or denoting art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but rather seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, colours, and textures.

"abstract pictures"

Similar:

non-representational

non-realistic

non-pictorial

symbolic



Strictly speaking, the word abstract means to separate or withdraw something from something else.

The term can be applied to art that is based on an object, figure or landscape, where forms have been simplified or schematised.

It is also applied to art that uses forms, such as geometric shapes or gestural marks, which have no source at all in an external visual reality. Some artists of this 'pure' abstraction have preferred terms such as concrete art or non-objective art, but in practice the word abstract is used across the board and the distinction between the two is not always obvious.

Abstract art is often seen as carrying a moral dimension, in that it can be seen to stand for virtues such as order, purity, simplicity and spirituality.

Since the early 1900s, abstract art has formed a central stream of modern art.

Wassily Kandinsky is generally regarded as the pioneer of abstract art. However, a Swedish woman called Hilma af Klint (1862–1944) might claim that title



<https://citygallery.org.nz/exhibitions/hilma-af-klint-the-secret-paintings/>





Wassily  
Kandinsky -  
Untitled (First  
Abstract  
Watercolor),  
1910. Watercolor  
and Indian ink  
and pencil on  
paper. 19.5 ×  
25.5.



Kazmir Malevich  
Black Square 1923



Ben Nicholson  
Chelsea 1924



Paul Klee  
Fire in the Evening 1929





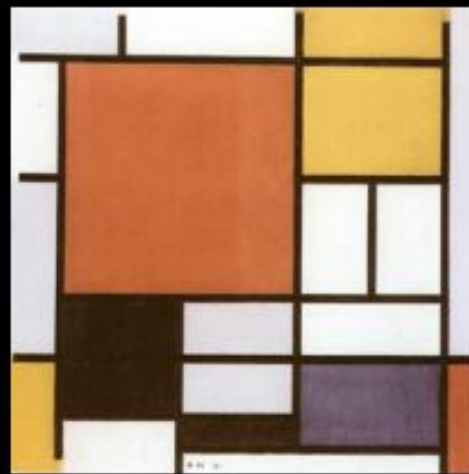
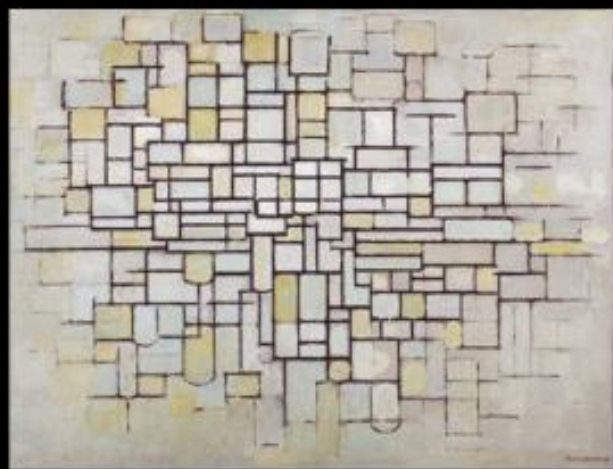
Abstract art is a load of bull. Please prove me wrong. (Duffy)  
This is "The Gate" by Hans Hofmann.  
It's supposed to actually depict an actual architectural gate.

It doesn't. This is colored rectangles. I'm a pretty open-minded guy, I can appreciate the avant-garde. But crap like this seems to me like an insult to real art.

I really hope to be proven wrong. I really hope that the entire abstract art scene isn't just talentless pretentious hacks who get high off of the smell of each other's shit. But that is what it seems like to me. I hope someone has some real insight for me here.

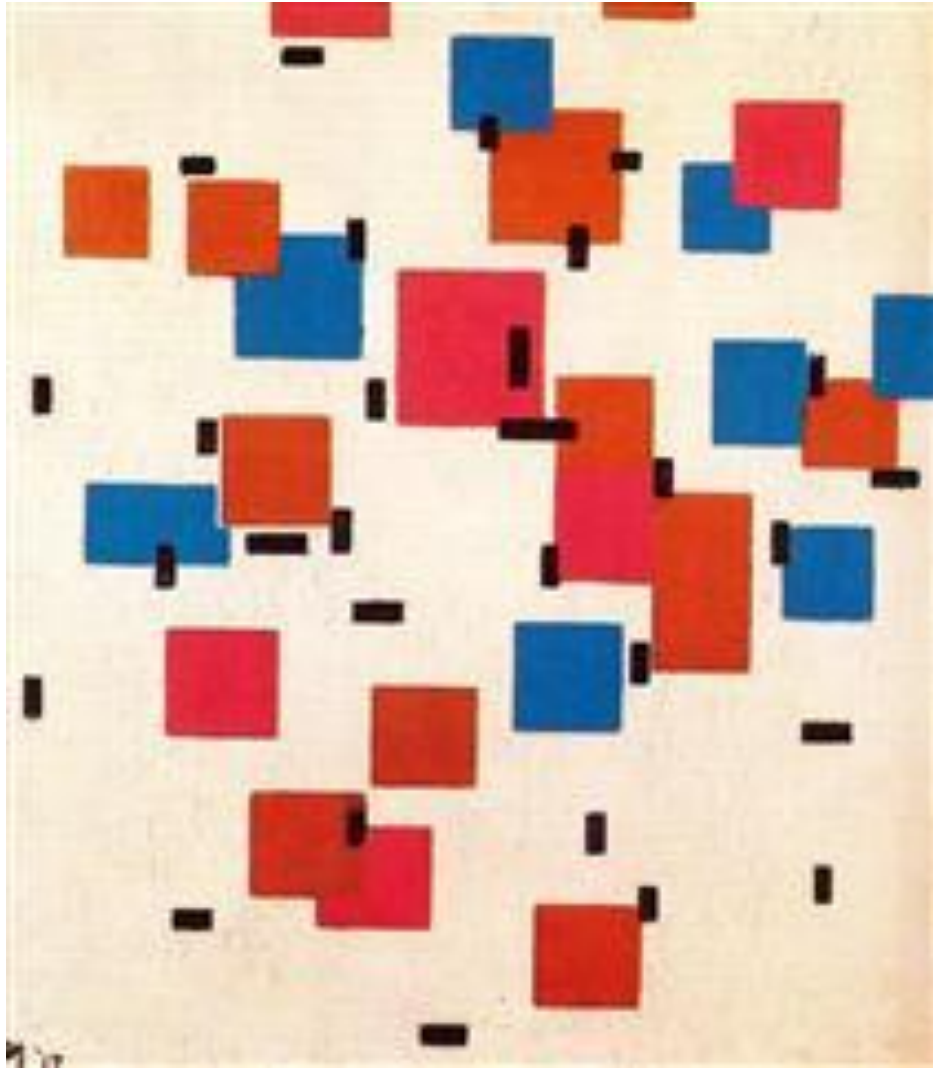
#### RESPONSE

Some people perceive art from a formalist perspective. They appreciate the arrangement of the elements and principles of art. Rhythm, balance, unity. The artwork is beautiful according to these principles. He was also reacting to what was going on at the time.





Piet Mondrian -







Joan Miró  
1893-1983



Yves Klein  
Blue Monochrome 1959



Antropometría 1960







Jackson  
Pollock -  
Full Fathom  
Five, 1947.  
Oil on  
canvas with  
nails, tacks,  
buttons,  
key, coins,  
cigarettes,  
matches,  
etc. 50 7/8 x  
30 1/8 in.





1973: National Gallery of Australia purchase

The National Gallery of Australia purchased Blue Poles in 1973 for A\$1.3 million. The gallery's director at the time, James Mollison, was not able to authorise purchases over \$1 million, so the acquisition was approved by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam who decided that the price should be made public.

How much is Blue poles Jackson Pollock worth?  
\$500 million





Mark  
Rothko - No.  
2, Green, Red  
and Blue,  
1953





Robert Delaunay  
"Rhythm n1" (1938).







[HOTERE, Ralph](#)

Dawn/Water Poem II

1985, 1810 x 1810mm, Acrylic  
on unstretched canvas



[HOTERE, Ralph](#)

Black Painting

1970, 910 x 910mm, Oil on board





Ralph Hotere

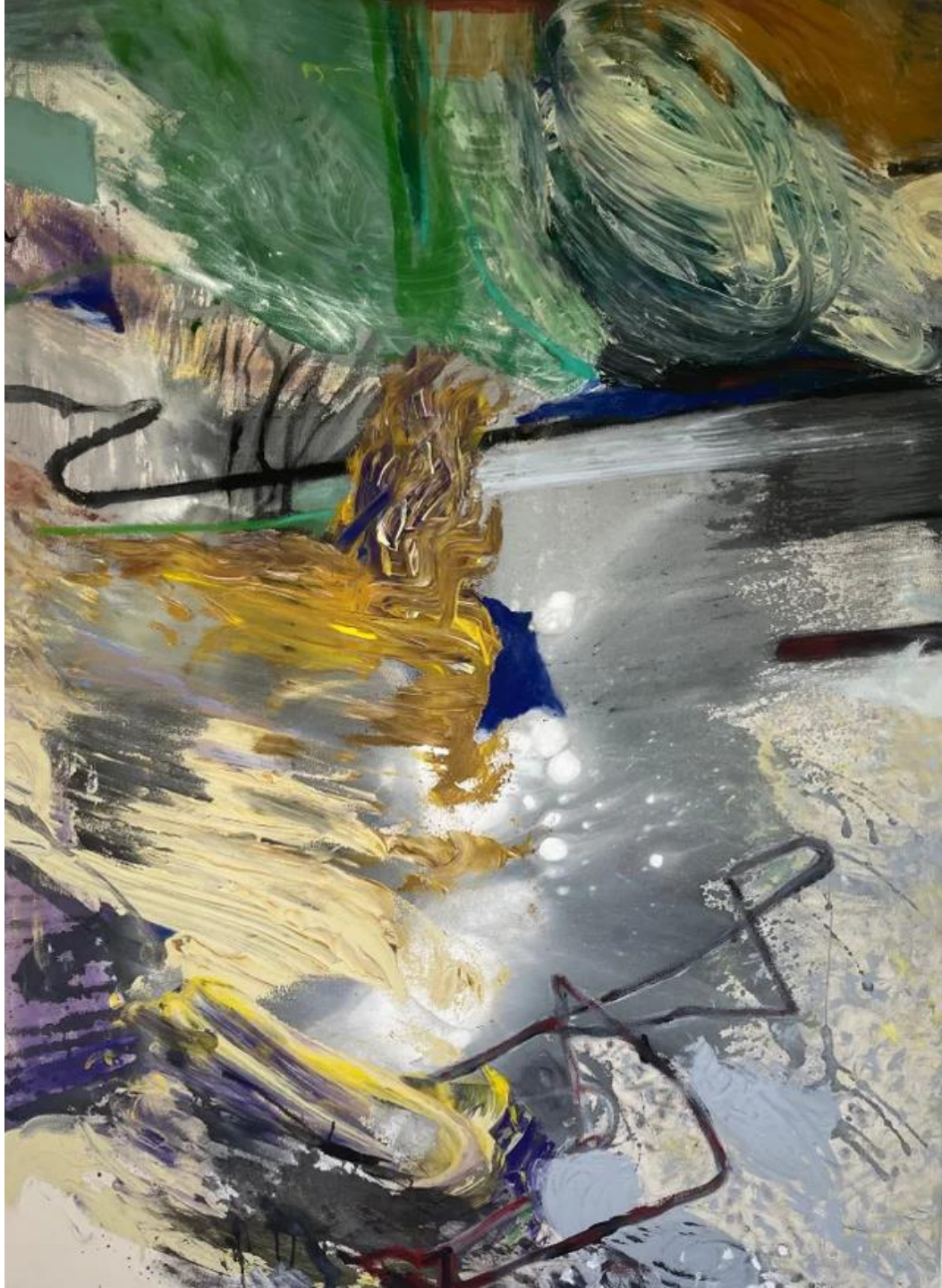
Nineteen Eighty Four  
1984, 815 x 900mm,  
Corrugated stainless steel on  
board





'Latecomer' by Gaye Jurisich





All that Glistens is  
not Gold' by  
Gaye Jurisich



Don  
Peebles  
1922-2010

Wellington  
series





Don  
Peebles  
1970  
Drawing



*Surge - Blue and  
Red*

Acrylic on canvas

2510 x 2555 mm

Inscribed: signed  
and dated verso

1983





Gretchen  
Albrecht  
Last light

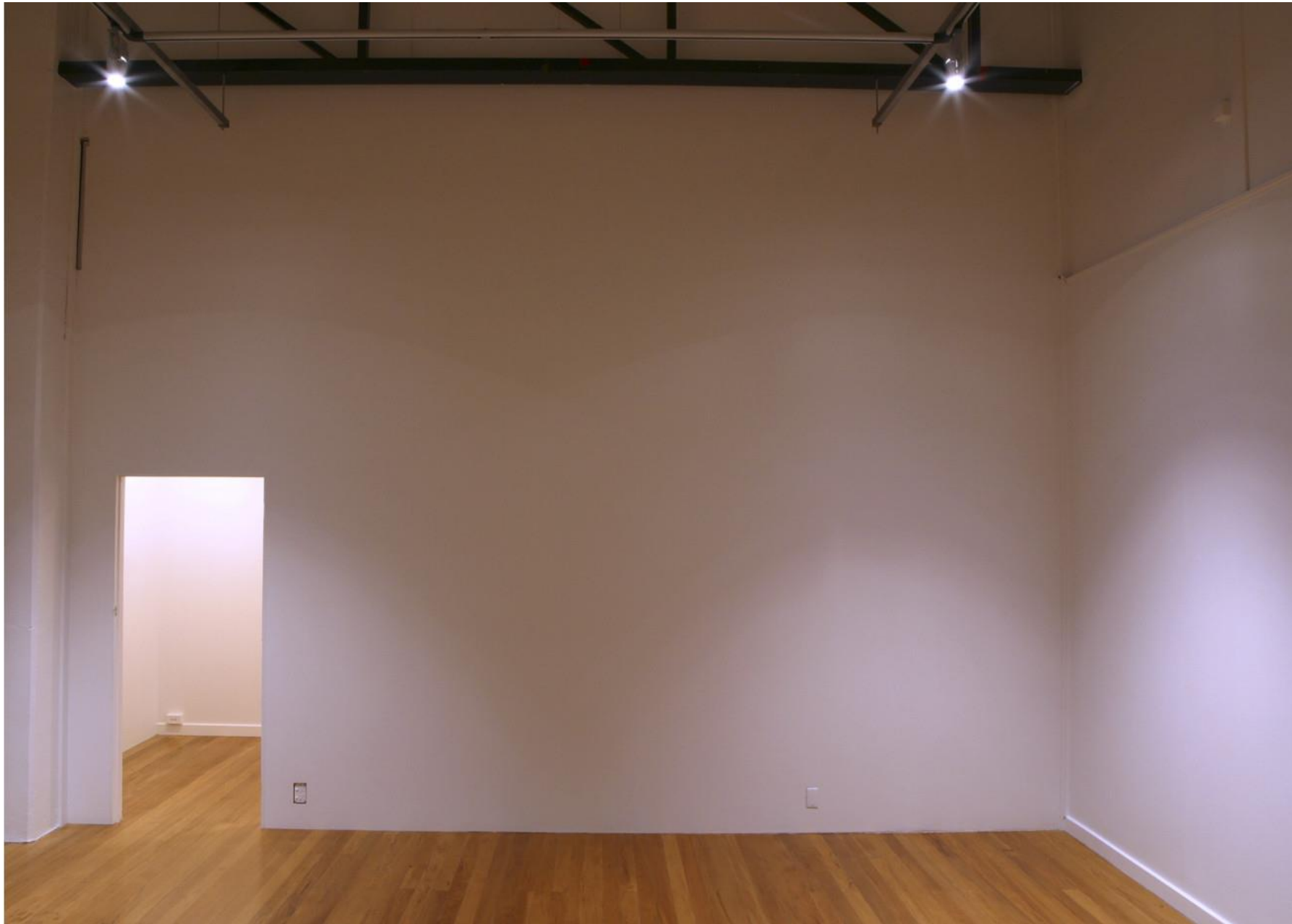


Gretchen  
Albrecht  
Sea of Faith





Colin McCahon  
French Bay



Billy Apple  
Subtractive





RICHARD ADAMS

Study - Eclipse

\$2,500



RICHARD ADAMS

Study - Intersect

\$2,500



RICHARD ADAMS

Equinox

\$5,500



KATIE THOMAS

Skyward

\$4,200



KATIE THOMAS

The High Blue

\$7,500



KATIE THOMAS

Making Tracks

\$4,200





CRISTINA POPOVICI

The Three Graces - 3

\$7,000



CRISTINA POPOVICI

Supreme Frequency

Yellow

\$14,000



CRISTINA POPOVICI

Meteoric Symphony

\$18,000