Chromatic

Does abstract art mean anything?

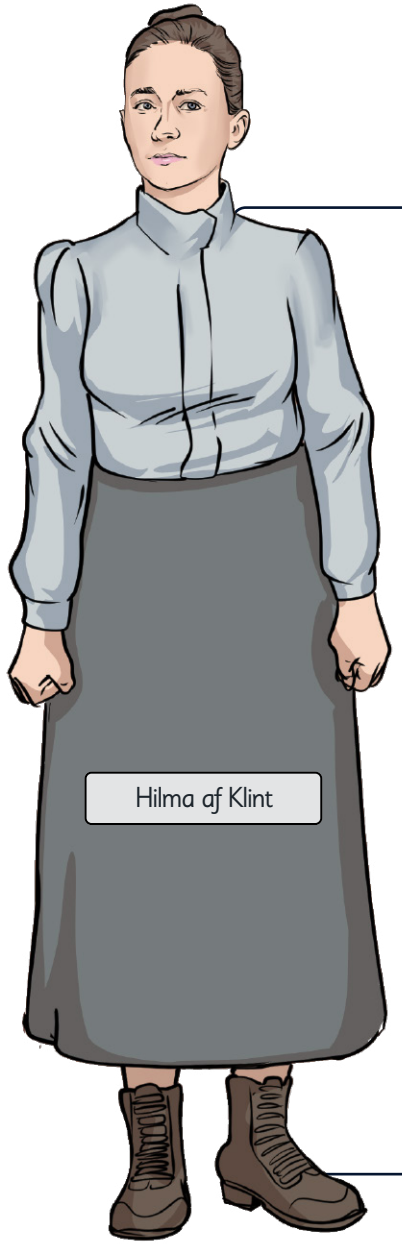
Lesson 2: What is abstract art?







Art skills



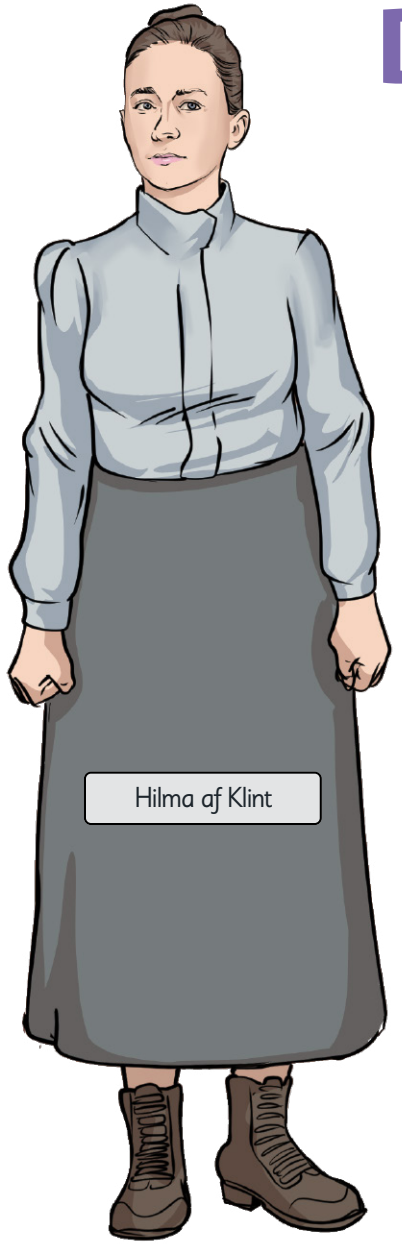
Core skills

- Appreciating and reflecting ✓
- Experimenting
- Creating
- Drawing
- Sculpting
- Developing technique

Supporting skills

- Exploring materials and techniques ✓
- Refining lines, shading, and expression
- Building balanced 3D artworks
- Recording inspirations and progress
- Studying artists, movements, and history ✓
- Understanding art's impact and culture ✓
- Evaluating with art vocabulary ✓

Does abstract art mean anything?



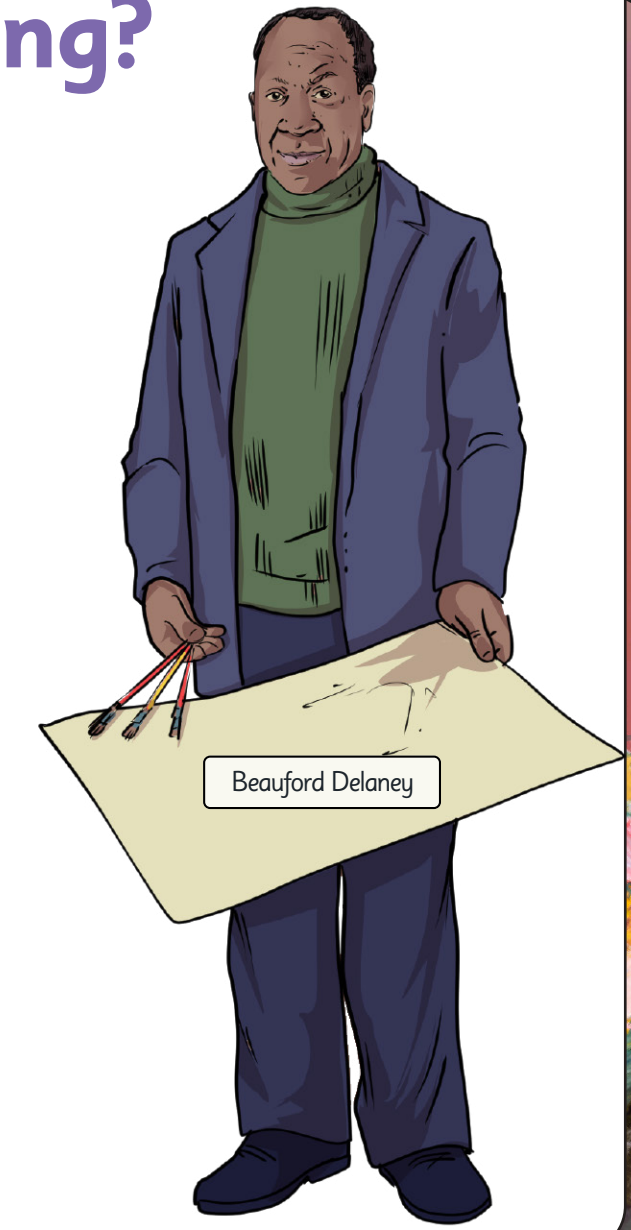
Lesson 1: How can we make colours?

Lesson 2: What is abstract art?

Lesson 3: Who was Hilma af Klint?

Lesson 4: What different meanings can abstract art have?

Lesson 5: How can we talk about abstract art?



Key vocabulary for this lesson



emotion – a strong feeling we have, such as being happy, scared or excited



feelings – how we feel inside, such as happy, sad or excited



painting – a picture made with paint



real – something that looks like it does in real life

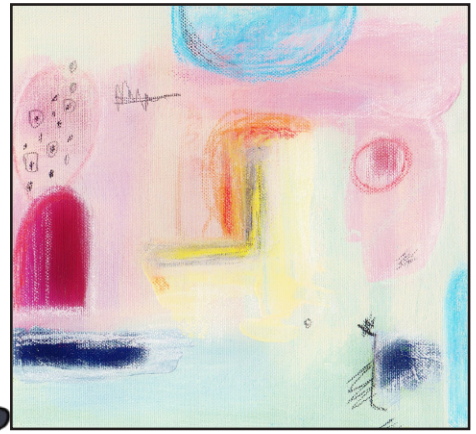
Appreciating and reflecting



Hi, I'm **Hana**. I am a museum **curator**. I look at art, learn about it and put it in museums.

Today we are **appreciating and reflecting**. This means looking at art and thinking about **how it makes us *feel***.

We will learn about **abstract** art. Abstract art **does not try to look real** . It uses colours, lines and shapes to show ***feelings*** and **emotions** .

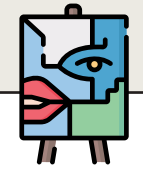




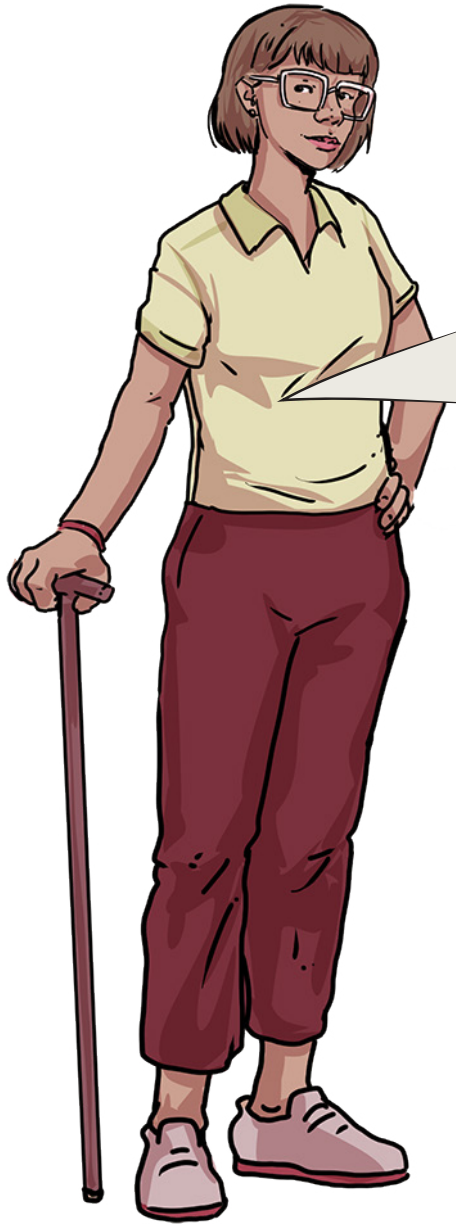


New word alert!

abstract – art that does not try to look like real life



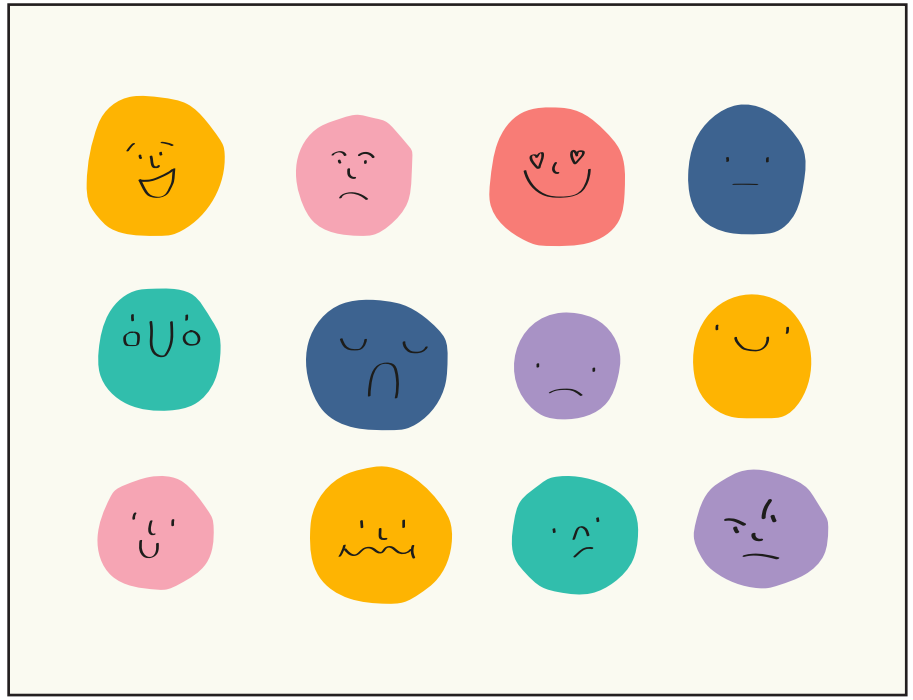
Colours



It's me again, **Dayla** the **painter**!

Did you know colours can make us *feel* different things?

Colours can show ***feelings*** and ***emotions*** - they can make us feel different things inside.



Let's discuss

Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



Discuss the **following questions** with your learning partner.

- **What colours can you see in the paintings?**
- **How do these colours make you *feel*?**





Be ready to **share your *feedback*** with the class.

Use these sentence starters to help you:

"I can see the colours…"

"These colours make me *feel*…"

"This painting makes me *feel*…"

Comparing paintings

Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



Both paintings show **real** **places** and try to look **lifelike**.



This painting shows a bright seaside scene.

It uses **blue, yellow** and **green**.

Blue and **green** can *feel* **calm** or **cool**.

Yellow can *feel* **warm** or **happy**.



This painting shows a sunset scene.

It uses **pinks, reds, yellows** and **blues**.

Warm colours can *feel* **bright** or **happy**.

Blue can *feel* **calm** or **cold**.

Let's discuss

Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary

These are **abstract paintings**. They are not meant to look like real life.

Discuss the **following questions** with your learning partner.

- **What colours can you see in this painting?**
- **How do these colours make you feel?**
- **What do the lines or shapes make you think of?**

Be ready to **share your feedback** with the class.

Use these sentence starters to help you:

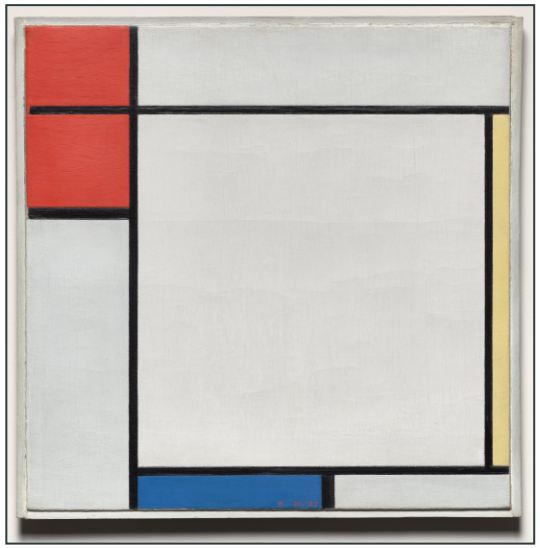
"I can see the colours…"

"These colours make me feel…"

"The lines and shapes make me think of…"



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rich_Harbor_by_Paul_Klee.jpg
Paradise Chronicle, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons





Earfquake (Tyler, the Creator), by Tariku Shiferaw, Acrylic on canvas, 2021

Let's discuss

answers

Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



This painting is called 'Rich Harbour', painted by Paul Klee in 1938.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rich_Harbor_by_Paul_Klee.jpg
Paradise Chronicle, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

It is an abstract painting, so it does not try to show things the way they look in real life.

It uses bright colours, curved lines and shapes to show ideas.

Let's discuss

answers

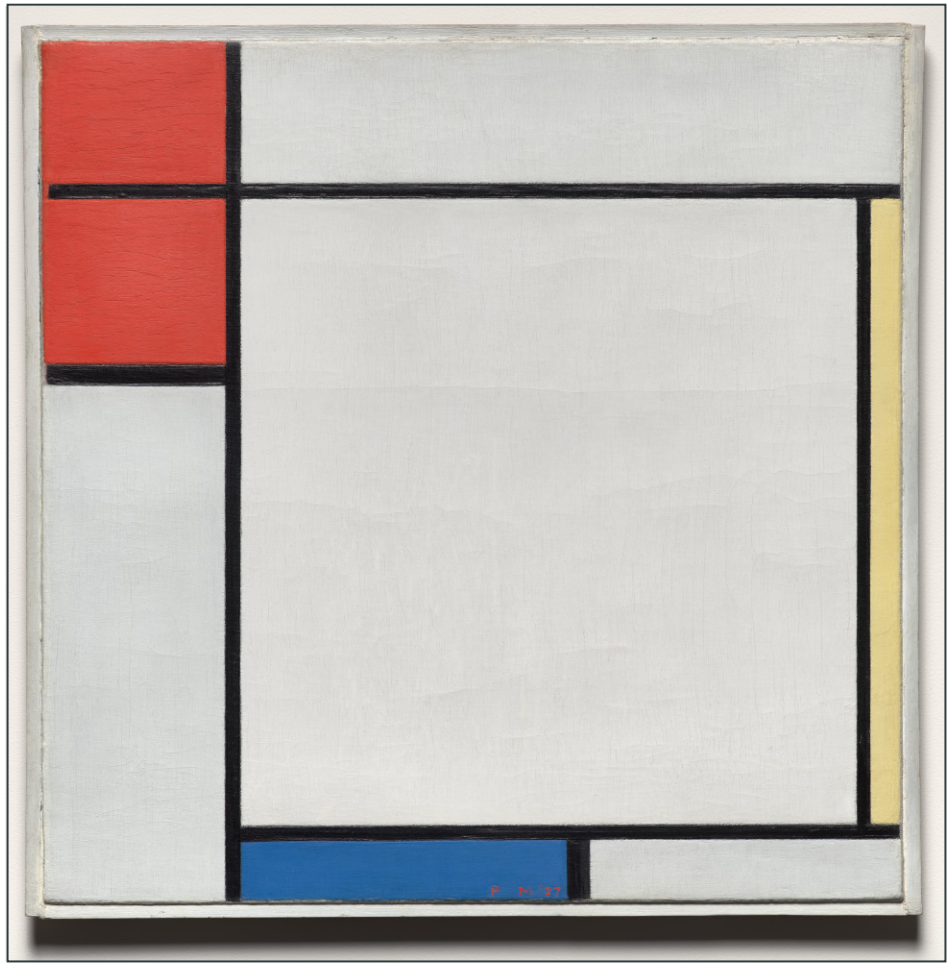
Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



This painting is called 'Composition with Blue, Yellow, Black and Red', by Piet Mondrian in 1927.

It is an abstract painting, so it does not show things the way they look in real life.

What do you think this painting could be?



Let's discuss

answers

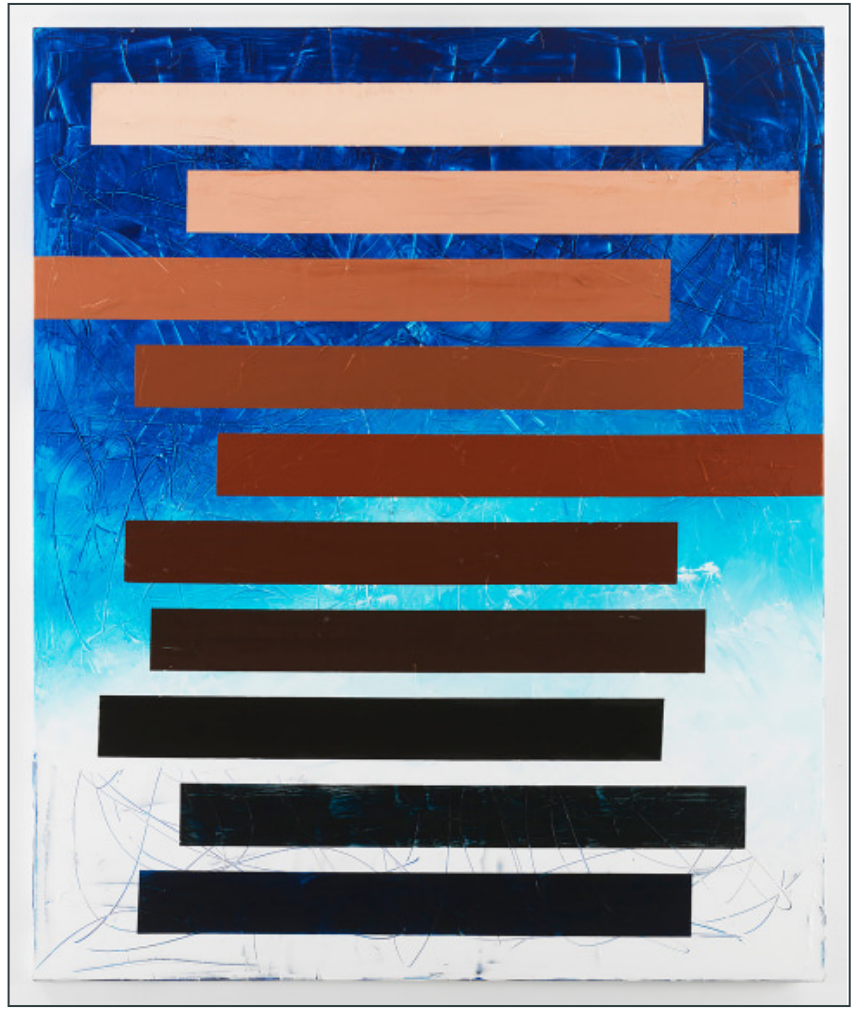
Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



This painting is called 'Earfquake', by Tariku Shiferaw in 2021.

It is an abstract painting, so it does not try to show things the way they look in real life.

We cannot tell straight away what it is, so we use our imagination!



Earfquake (Tyler, the Creator), by Tariku Shiferaw, Acrylic on canvas, 2021

Abstract art

Appreciating and reflecting | Studying artists, movements and history | Understanding art's impact and culture | Evaluating with art vocabulary



We can see that **abstract** **art** is different because it **doesn't** show things the way they really look.

It uses colours, lines and shapes to show ideas and feelings.





https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rich_Harbor_by_Paul_Klee.jpg
Paradise Chronicle, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Safety

Paint and paintbrushes are fun to use, but we must follow **safety rules** to make sure it stays fun!



- Wash your hands before and after.
- Use paint and brushes gently and don't throw them.
- Use the tools as your teacher shows you.
- Don't put paint or tools in your mouth.
- Ask an adult for help.



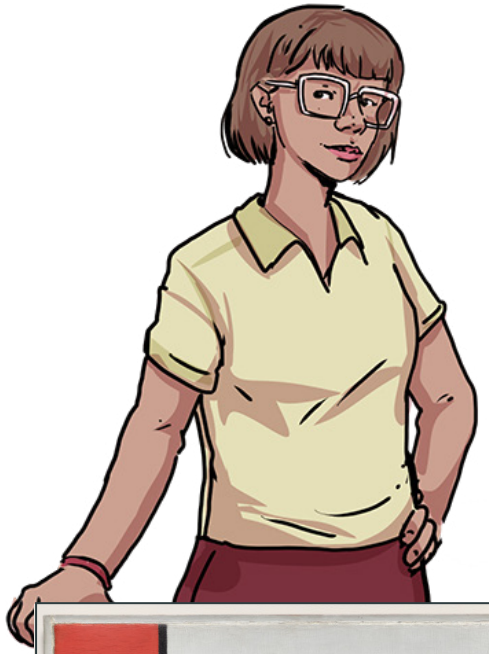




Activity

Appreciating and reflecting

Exploring materials and techniques



Choose one **abstract** artwork you like.
Cut it out and **stick** it in your sketchbook.

Use paint to make **colours, shapes** and **lines** that look the same as the artwork you chose.

Can you match the **colours**, copy the **shapes** and paint similar **lines** —?

Remember!

Rinse your brush for each new colour.

Dry it if it gets too wet.

Think about where you put each line, shape and colour.





https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rich_Harbor_by_Paul_Klee.jpg
Paradise Chronicle, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Earfquake (Tyler, the Creator), by Tariku Shiferaw, Acrylic on canvas, 2021

Let's share

Appreciating and reflecting



Well done, everyone! Now, talk with your partner or group:

- **What did you learn about abstract art today?**
- **How did the colours, lines and shapes make you *feel*?**
- **Which abstract artwork did you like the most?**

Be a great listener!

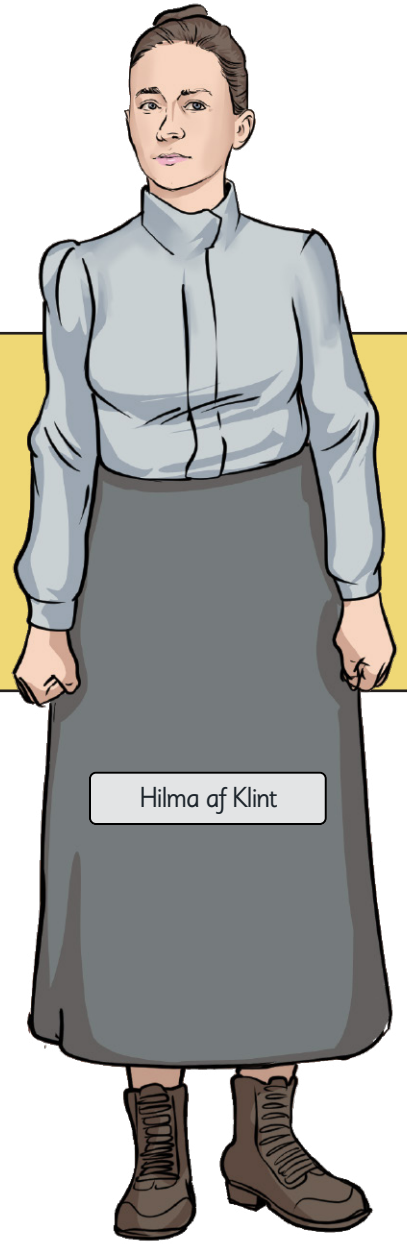
Remember to ask kind questions:

- Which colours or shapes did you like?
- How did the painting make you *feel*?

Use the following sentence starters to help you.

"I learned that abstract art…"
"The colours made me *feel*…"
"I liked the artwork with…"

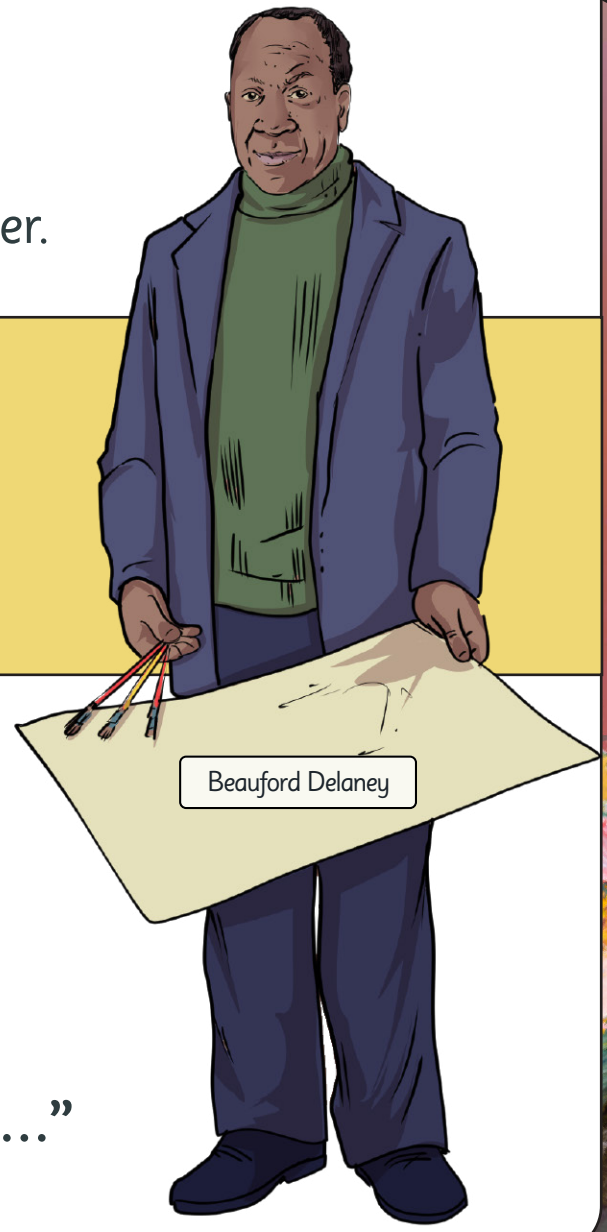
Challenge



Discuss the **following question** with your learning partner.

How does **abstract art** help us make our own choices about what we see?

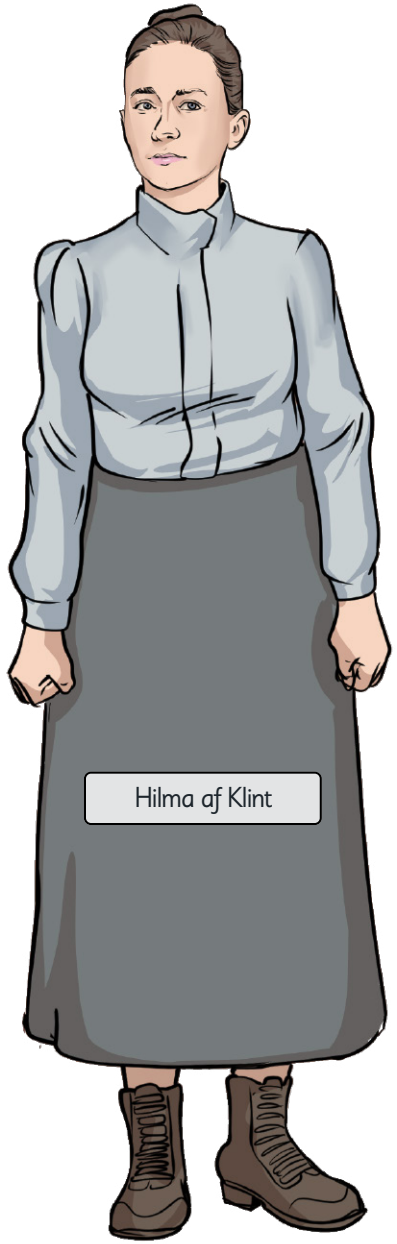
Be ready to **share your feedback** with the class.



Use the following sentence starter to help you.

"Abstract art helps me make my own ideas because..."

Challenge answers



Did you say any of these answers?

- because it doesn't show a real thing, so we can choose what we think it is
- we can look at the shapes and colours and decide our own ideas
- there is no right or wrong answer, so we can choose what we see
- it lets our brains make up a story
- everyone might see something different, and that's okay
- it helps us use our own thinking, not someone else's



Next time



In the next lesson, we will learn about the artist **Hilma *af* Klint** and explore her abstract paintings.

We will think about **these questions**:

- Who was Hilma *af* Klint?
- What shapes, colours and lines did she use in her art?
- How can we make our own artwork inspired by her style?