



Year Group: Years 5 and 6 (KS2) Date: Monday 2

Subject: Art & Design- Artist Research

LO: I can identify abstract expressionism



Prior learning: Artist research completed in unit 1- Ben Mosley (action artist)

Key Facts:

Within abstract expressionism were two broad groupings: the so-called action painters, who attacked their canvases with expressive brush strokes; and the colour field painters who filled their canvases with large areas of a single colour.

The action painters were led by Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, who worked in a spontaneous improvisatory manner often using large brushes to make sweeping gestural marks. Pollock famously placed his canvas on the ground and danced around it, pouring paint from the can or trailing it from the brush or a stick. In this way, the action painters directly placed their inner impulses onto the canvas.

The second grouping included Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Clyfford Still. They were deeply interested in religion and myth and created simple compositions with large areas of colour intended to produce a contemplative or meditational response in the viewer. In an essay written in 1948 Barnett Newmann said: 'Instead of making cathedrals out of Christ, man, or "life", we are making it out of ourselves, out of our own feelings'. This approach to painting developed from around 1960 into what became known as colour field painting, characterised by artists using large areas of more or less a single flat colour.

New learning:

The following links might be useful to help you to identify abstract expressionism

- <https://www.benmosleyart.com/about/>
- <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-expressionism>



WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

Activity 1:

Using the links above, create a fact file on Purple Mash about abstract expressionism. A 2do will be set for you to complete this activity.

Your fact file should answer these questions.

- What is abstract expressionism?
- What tools do abstract expressionists use and how do they use them?
- What do you think of abstract expressionism?
- Who Is your favourite artist from this movement and why?

Learning for Life

