Abstract Art

"straight lines and circles are... not only beautiful... but eternally and absolutely beautiful."

- Plato
Defining Abstract Art

- Paintings or sculptures that does not depict a person, place or thing in the natural world -- even in an extremely distorted or exaggerated way
- The subject of the work is based on what you see: color, shapes, brushstrokes, size, scale and, in some cases, the process
Principles of Abstract Art

• Art can be appreciated for its line and use of color alone

• Even paintings that are very realistic can still be boring

• Drew off inspiration of Celtic and arabesque art

Black Untitled
Willem de Kooning
1948
Origins

- Movement started in 1911 in Russia by Vassily Kandinsky
  - Associated abstract art with emotion and music
- Spread with popularity of cubism, and surrealism

Picture with a Circle
Vassily Kandinsky
1911
## Use of Color

### Emotions
- **Red** – lively and confident
- **Green** – Peace and Inner Strength
- **Blue** – Deep and supernatural
- **Yellow** – Warm, Exciting, Disturbing
- **White** – Silence, purity, potential

### Sounds
- **Red** – Trumpet
- **Green** – Violin
- **Blue** – Flute
- **Yellow** – Triumphant trumpets
- **White** – Harmonious Pause
Brush Stokes

- Can be used to display emotion of painter or portray emotions
  - Small and controlled
  - Large and gestural
  - Variety
  - Direction

Night Creatures
Lee Krasner
1965
Stretching the rules of Art

- Non-traditional art
  - Use of new materials and mediums
- Redefines the ideas of what is “art”
DS 1958
David Smith
1958
Becca
David Smith
1965