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Abstract Art

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

- Plato

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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 Strokes

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



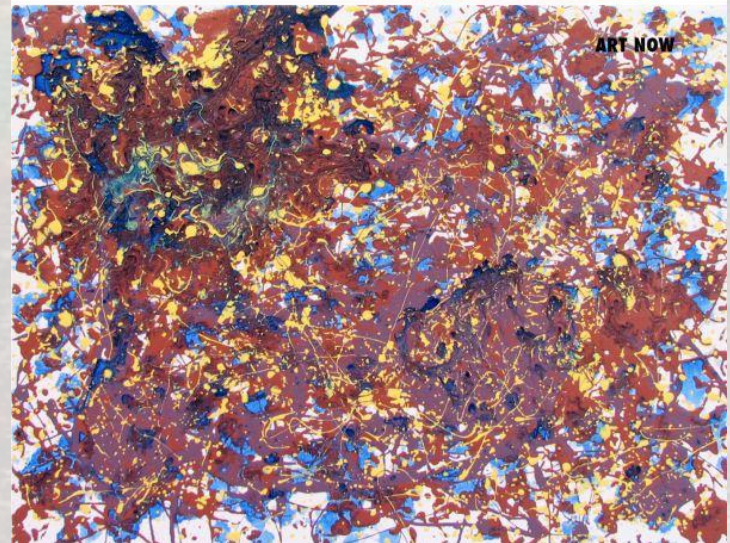
Night Creatures

Lee Krasner

1965

Stretching the rules of Art

- Non-traditional art
 - Use of new materials and mediums
- Redefines the ideas of what is “art”



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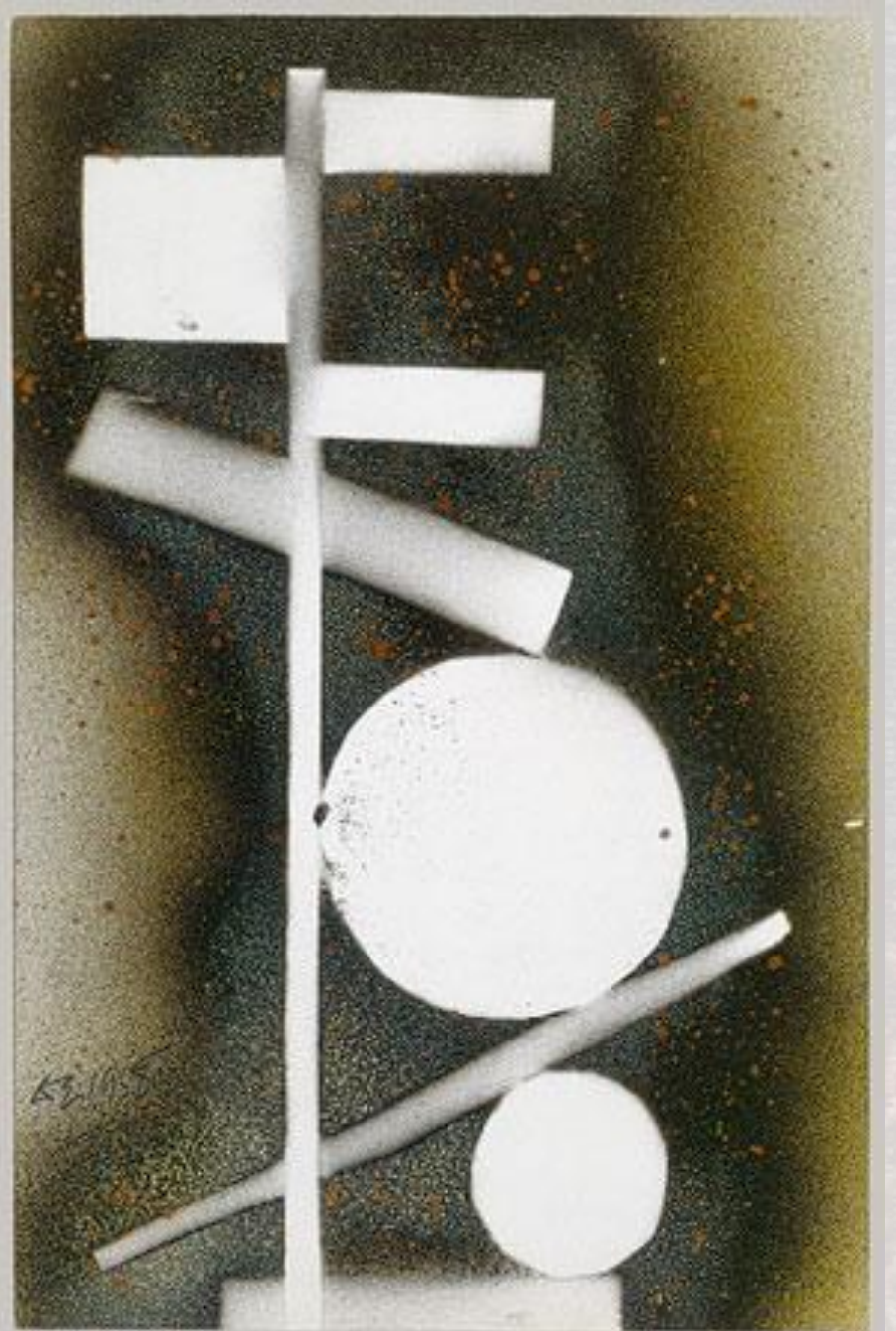
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DS 1958

David Smith

1958



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Becca

David Smith

1965

