

Reference: (1) DAVID PARK, by Richard Armstrong
attached (2) 2 newspaper articles

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Bare Bones Paper on a Work of Art

prepared by: Lynn Lonze

Title	Woman With Coffee Pot (1958)	Accession No.	1968/9.88
Artist	David Park		
Type of work	Abstract		

Brief Biography of artist: 1912-1961 - death from cancer 1961, painting from 1928 on - San Francisco Bay area artist, faculty Berkeley. Primarily drawn to faces - abstract portrait painting. While there are some changes in his palette much of his work is in blacks, browns, tan, white with red accents.

Background Information and facts to bring out:

see attached

Formal Qualities (art elements & design principles) observed in the work:

Expressive Qualities felt in the work:

Questions to ask:

Using the work in a tour:

Woman with Coffee Pot (1958)

Lynn Jones
#1968/988

David Park

abstract

Reag

Background - abstract, ~~evolving~~ developing out of Cubism, ^{EMPHASIS -} also linear in nature. Painted during last 3 years of life - more intimate than some of his other works.

Formal Qualities

The painting's figure is balanced by color, lines and geometric shapes

The painting is balanced by all the dimensions interacting even though "off-balance" (the placement of the figure and action occurs ^{primarily} on the right side ^{and} down into the lower right corner). The coffee pot brings the "action" toward the center creating a sense succeeding motion in a circular arc

The constant lines create a 3 dimensional aspect much like multi colored piece of jello that have been randomly cut. The shapes of the figure and the object

clearly indicate a person and pot or
bottle. The geometric and irregular shapes
seem to expand and make the space
larger than it might "need" to be.
Positive and negative space are balanced, but
not equal. ^{value} The intensity of the colors
shy and are fragmented giving the painting
a shimmering quality, or to some, a
feeling of disintegration. The colors appear,
to me, to be dull or possibly just not
typical - the artist used colors that I
am not typically attracted to. There
are sharp domains of color, pastel
hue and muted, surreal overlapping
applications of color. I have not been able
to fathom the ^{reason for the} ~~artist's~~ choice of color -
I would call the use of arbitrary color.

The texture appears uneven and irregular
due to the use of lines creating shapes
that while angular are not identical.
The composition and form are closed. And
as I have written previously the focal
point is on the right and bottom
of the painting. The unity of the
painting is maintained by the
artist's use of color.

Your Questions - primarily aimed toward 5th graders

1. Does your mother, grandmother or other family member use a coffee pot that looks like this?
(It looks more like a tea pot to me)
2. What does your coffee pot look like?
3. Have you ever been "formally served" coffee?
Some thing else (tea, hot chocolate)
4. Was it a special occasion?
5. When you look at this painting does it make you feel happy, scared, loved, intrigued, puzzled
6. What children's stories, nursery rhymes can you recall where a woman serves children food - Snow White, Hansel & Gretel etc. - Children's shows, movies & cartoons
7. What was the purpose of these actions?
8. Can you think of a little girl who was going to take food to her grandmother?
9. Does this painting remind you of any of the above.
10. If you were going to write a story about ~~what~~ the painting what would you write?

Your

If I was taking 5th graders on a tour I might select this painting and have discussion revolve around "What story does it tell?"

I could also have them describe and count shapes

Questions to ask - the vocabulary would have to be adapted depending on age -

1. What is your favorite color?
2. Do you see it in the painting?
3. How does that color/shape make you feel?
4. Why?
5. ~~Can~~ Could other colors be as successful, in conveying the same feeling?
6. Would the colors, if changed, need to be in the same or ^{in a} related color family?
7. How ~~many~~ ^{name} the different shapes ~~do~~ you see in the painting? Why do you think the artist painted
8. Can you tell how old the person is? ⁱⁿ what way? Can you guess?
9. Is the gender of the figure obvious?
10. How do you know that the coffee pot is a coffee pot? Could it be anything else? What else can you see in the painting?
11. What do you like about the painting? Dislike?
12. What, if anything, would you change?
13. Have you ever painted ~~as~~ a picture using lines and shapes? ~~What are~~
14. What message did you want to convey?
15. Could you paint a picture like this?
16. Could you use a pencil, pen, chalk, crayon, marker, oil or water color paint?
17. Do you think this could have been painted in the "old days" such as when the cowboy & Indians were alive and settling the West?