

Landmarks Guide for Adolescents



Anthony Caro
British, born 1924

Veduggio Glimpse
1972–73
Steel

Subject: Abstract Expressionism

Activity: Create an Abstract Expressionist painting

Materials: Paper and paint

Vocabulary: Abstract Expressionism, Geometric Abstraction, representational, non-representational

i Introduction

Anthony Caro is a British artist who works in an Abstract Expressionist style. He is inspired by his materials and by his own feelings and ideas, and he often works spontaneously. Many of his sculptures, like *Veduggio Glimpse*, are created without any preliminary drawing or sketches.

Caro named this sculpture after the city Veduggio in Italy, where he created it as part of a series. According to the artist, this sculpture does not depict an actual landscape. Rather, it is an abstract expression of his surroundings. Caro strives to make sculptures about real experiences without making exact representations of those experiences. In spite of this, to many people this sculpture looks like a landscape, or art that depicts scenery or a setting, like the city or country.

? Questions

How do titles of artworks influence our thoughts about them? Might titles of abstract works give us hints about their meaning?

Why would an artist give their artwork a title that is contradictory?

If this work were untitled, would it give a different meaning to the work?

What kind of freedom does expressing ideas in abstract forms give to artists?

Anthony Caro, continued



Activity

Using paint on paper, create a painting using abstract forms that represent your feelings about a particular idea or subject. While you are painting, keep a specific thought in mind and freely express your emotions associated with that idea. Experiment by using different colors and brushstrokes to represent the different ways your subject makes you feel, without depicting a realistic form.

After your painting is complete, allow it to dry and then look at it from various angles and think about what you see.



Vocabulary

Abstract Expressionism - 1940s New York painting movement based on using abstract imagery to express emotions and experiences

Geometric Abstraction - A style of art that uses geometric shapes to create a composition that is not representational or realistic

Representational - Depicting people, places, and things as they appear or are seen

Nonrepresentational - Not depicting a recognizable object or thing