

PAMA Spotlight William Ronald



Grades 3 – The Arts, Visual Arts - Creating and Presenting & Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing

Curriculum Connections

D1. Creating and Presenting: apply the creative process to produce a variety of two- and three-dimensional art works, using elements, principles, and techniques of visual arts to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings.

D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing: apply the critical analysis process to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings in response to a variety of art works and art experiences.

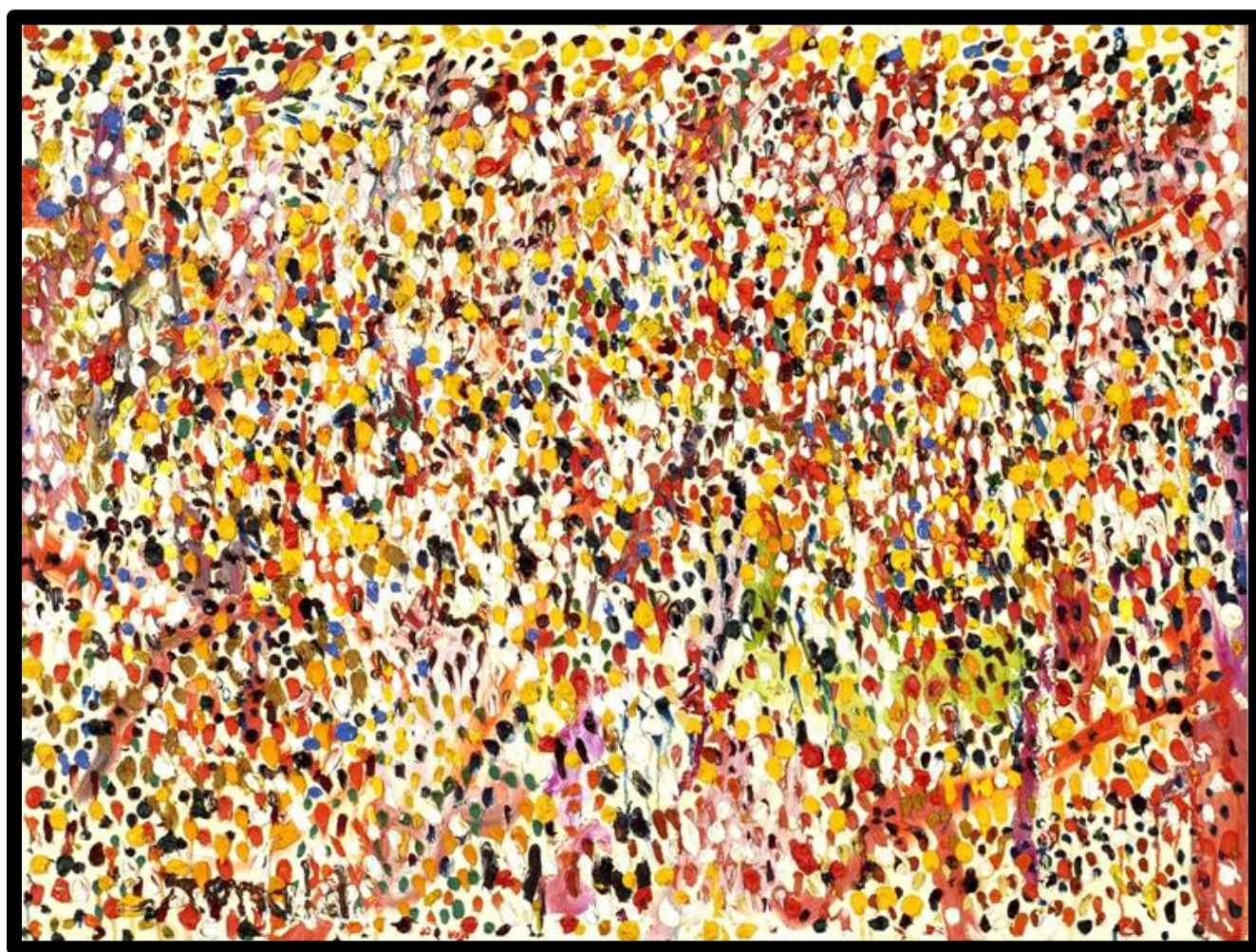
Let's Get Started

In this Learning Resource we will be exploring two pieces in the PAMA art gallery collection by William Ronald. William Ronald was an abstract expressionist artist, working between Toronto and New York City. Ronald was a part of the Painters Eleven, a group of Canadian abstract artists founded in the 1950s. Abstract art does not represent real things. Instead, abstract art uses colours, lines and shapes to express feelings.

Look at the paintings below and use the critical analysis process to help you explore.



William Ronald
Baby Apple
Acrylic on Canvas
n.d



William Ronald
Last Hurrah
acrylic on canvas
1973



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Initial Reaction

How do these paintings make you feel? Happy, sad, confused?

What in the pieces make you feel that way? The colour, the composition?

Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing

Let's do a fun activity to go through the elements and principles of art.

Line – Use your body to make a line. Stand up straight, hands at your side, feet together. You are a straight line. Try another one. Stand tall again with your arms down by your side and your feet together, then wiggle your body without moving your hands or feet, you are a wavy line. Try some on your own.

Colour – Do certain colours make you happy? Or sad? What colour makes you happy? Are they bright colours? What colours make you sad? Maybe darker colours? Pick a few emotions and think of a colour that represents them.

Shape/form – Circle, square, triangle. Cube, sphere, cone. What shapes do you see in everyday life? If you had to breakdown an object into shapes, how would you do it?

Texture – Is the way something feels. When you cannot touch an object, you need to imagine what it would feel like. Look at a picture of a dog, with lots of fur. You might think it feels soft. A picture of a car, you might think it feels hard.

Value – Is the lightness and darkness of colours within a piece of art that makes you feel a certain way. How can you use different hues of colours to express your feelings?

Space – Foreground, background middle ground. How can you use the whole canvas to make your artwork interesting? What would you put in the front? Or back?

Contrast – is when an artist uses light or dark colours together to create emphasis. Can you think of a time when you put two very different colours together in your art? How did it stand out?

Repetition and Rhythm – Patterns and movement are used to make art more interesting. Do you like using patterns in your own art? Create your own pattern using colour.

Variety – Is when different elements are used in art to keep your attention. How many elements do you think you can add into your art?



Closer Look

Take a closer look at one of the paintings and work through the following questions.

What grabs your attention in the painting?

Think about your five senses (touch, sight, smell, hearing and taste). Which ones are you using when looking at this painting?

What stands out for you (any elements or art)?

What “qualities” do you see in this work (vibrant paint colours; bold brushstrokes or lines)?

How are the elements organized, combined, or arranged?

What is the artist trying to communicate, and why?

How effectively does the artist pick and combine elements?

Have your thoughts or feelings about the painting changed since you first looked at it? If so, how have they changed?

Extension Activity

1. Which artwork was your favourite? How did it make you feel? Thinking about this feeling, what colours come to mind? For example, if you feel happy, do you think of your favourite colour? Or maybe the colour yellow or orange?

Create an abstract painting using the elements or art the principle of design: Variety.

Variety: slight variations on a major theme; strong contrasts (e.g., use of different lines, shapes, values, and colours to create interest [bright or light colour values, dark colour values])

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Check out our elements of art [poster](#)

