

# 10 Kinds of Art



Some paintings you look at and understand right away. You see a picture of a woman. You see a country road. You see a boat on a river. Perhaps the painter is trying to tell you something. Perhaps not. It does not really matter. You can look at the painting and see what it's about. You can simply enjoy the picture.

Paintings like these may be called *realistic*. But some are more realistic than others. For example, the picture of a woman may have soft, blurred edges. A woman does not look *exactly* like that. But still, you recognize her for what she is. Another name for this kind of art is *representational*. You recognize what the painting represents.

Other paintings are more difficult to comprehend. You look at them closely. But you see little that you recognize. Such a painting may be blotches of color. Or it may be filled with tiny squares. Or it may be all one color, with one contrasting stripe painted across it. You look at such paintings and ask yourself, "Am I supposed to see a picture here?"

The answer, usually, is that you are not. There is no picture of a woman hidden in those blotches of color. The artist is not trying to represent anything. Instead, he or she may be experimenting. One artist may be trying to combine colors in new and interesting ways. Another may be looking to create different textures on the canvas. Art of this type is called *abstract*. You may not like all the abstract art you see. But you can still get something out of it. Do you like the colors? Do you like the texture or design? An abstract painting may be different from what you are used to. But you can accept it for what it is.

Main Idea	1	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Art is a fascinating subject to study.		<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Some art is realistic; other art is abstract.		<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Some painters experiment with color and design.		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Score 15 points for each correct answer. \_\_\_\_\_ Score

**Subject Matter** 2 The purpose of this passage is to  
 a. provide a short history of art.  
 b. explain different techniques for painting paint on a canvas.  
 c. explain differences between realistic and abstract art.  
 d. convince the reader to visit art museums. \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Details** 3 Representational art is  
 a. abstract.  
 b. realistic.  
 c. modern.  
 d. done only with water colors. \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion** 4 The writer seems to feel that  
 a. abstract art is ridiculous.  
 b. you should look for pictures in abstract art.  
 c. people can learn to appreciate abstract art.  
 d. pictures of women should not be blurred. \_\_\_\_\_

**Clarifying Devices** 5 The writer has organized this passage by  
 a. comparison and contrast.  
 b. order of importance.  
 c. time order.  
 d. spatial order. \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage the word textures means  
 a. colors and how bright they are.  
 b. designs.  
 c. squares and triangles.  
 d. appearances or feelings of surfaces. \_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here \_\_\_\_\_ Total  
 and on the graph on page 214. \_\_\_\_\_ Score