

Student Example - Lesson #17 - Assignment 2

Chosen Painting: #49 Jackson Pollock – Lavender Mist

I chose this painting because I do not like that it is so abstract. The colours are very vague and dark. I usually like bright paintings. This painting I would say falls into abstract expressionism. I prefer painting's that have more depth and meaning and one that is more subjective and related to actual events rather than being so abstract that it looks like a floor tile. But, then there is also a place for that in today's world, as floor tiles are needed in many buildings in today's world.

The technique used is very unique. It is a free flowing painting.

Subjective Questions:

1. What do you think of Pollock's use of colour in this painting?

I think that he has used earthy colours. This shows that he is trying to convey his painting as a natural setting. However, he has shown a hint of lavender color scheme so this is a pleasant complement of color shown in his painting. I think this has made the painting showcase better to the viewer as it offers a pleasant contrast of color. He was well known for his contrast of colour in his paintings in general. His color scheme does offer balance and harmony throughout the painting. He applied some of his color by using a Brush Drip technique. This method consists of throwing and dripping the paint on the canvas. Because of this, he was known as one of the "Action Painters".

2. What do you think of the overall composition of this painting?

I think it is well done. Pollock uses a technique, which doesn't just use paint but other materials as well in order to present the effect he has communicated in his painting. His use of line is flowing. However, looking at it for the first time, I would not know, what it he is trying to portray. The elements and principles that Pollock has concentrated on, is colour, contrast, texture, emphasis and variety. His use of color contributes to the overall effect of the painting. His color contrast of earthy and lavender colors contributes to the overall effect of the painting. But it is an overall earthy, atmospheric and is relatively calm from the light of the whites to intense streaks of striking black. So he

has used contrast to balance his painting, which makes it appear very flowing. Pollock was most prized and famed for this.

He has used texture that allows the painting to have multiple layers and this has allowed for a three dimensional like appearance, which creates a shimmery texture. He has achieved this through using impastos with thick layers of paint from green to black to white and brown. Pollock rarely shows emphasis, however the focal point of this painting is the thick and long streaks of black. These black streaks border the painting and are scattered throughout the painting in a rather disorderly manner. But it does allow the viewer to be directed around the painting to the four corners of the canvas.

Overall, I think it is uniquely made. The colours do show it is earthy colours, at the same time offering a contrast of lavender throughout the painting. His use of the brush-drip technique is fascinating and intriguing. Although I may not see what the artist might be trying to portray, I still respect how its overall composition and the techniques that he has used in order to create the effects that he was trying to portray. His use of the brush-drip technique is fascinating and intriguing

Objective Questions:

1. Jackson Pollock – Lavender Mist is Abstract Expressionism.

True OR False?

Answer - True.

2. What technique has Jackson Pollock used in Lavender Mist?

- A. Masking
- B. Wet into wet graduation
- C. Stippling
- D. Brush Drip

Answer – D. Brush Drip Technique.