

Hans Hoffman: A Mad Lib

1. Verb - Past Tense

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Hans Hofmann was celebrated for his exuberant, colorful canvases and played a pivotal role in the development of Abstract Expressionism. Abstract Expressionism encompasses not only the work of painters who filled their canvases with spectrums of color and abstract shapes and forms, but also those who attacked their canvases with a vigorous expressionism. Hofmann's influences include Matisse's use of color and Cubism's displacement of form. He used his inspiration of these elements to create what he is most known for, a theory he called "push and pull," which he described as interdependent relationships between form, color, and space. Hoffman believed that in this way an artist could also stay true the dimensionality of the canvas. One of Hans' famous paintings that displayed this is called the Conjuror. The form in the painting moved from geometric to more fluid forms. Hans also used a broad spectrum of colors that contrasted throughout the painting.

Hofmann also believed nature was the origin of art. Even when his canvases seemed to be only collections of forms and colors, Hofmann argued that they still contained the suggestion of movement of nature. Hofmann also heavily used the contrast of color in all of his paintings.

Hofmann began teaching art upon immigrating to America from Europe. He _____ Verb - Past Tense _____ the strictest of standards for creating art, yet believed that if an artist followed those standards with enough talent and determination, he could create an infinite number of possibilities. Hofmann's legacy reached far beyond his own work but through his hundreds of students, many of whom are very successful, that his true impact on art history is felt. Clement Greenberg, a student of Hofmann's, was strongly influenced by Hofmann's ideas.

