

Looking at Abstract Art

at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art

Abstract art can look like a random collection of lines, shapes and colors. In one way or another, abstract art does not look like reality. What the art is trying to show is not always clear.

However, like other kinds of art, abstract art is creating a visual experience using shapes, forms, colors and lines... Rather than using these tools to create something that looks like reality, an abstract artist used them to create something new.

Walk around *Mapping the Ancient Origins of Light* exhibition on the first floor, and *A Gift of Knowing: The Art of Dorothea Rockburne* on the second floor.



Dorothea Rockburne
The Mathematical Edges of Maine, 2014
Colored pencil on paper
© 2015 Dorothea Rockburne /
Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York

Pick the artwork that you like the most, and let's see if we can think more about what we are seeing.

Why do you like this artwork?

What does the artwork remind you of? Why?

What do you feel when you look at the artwork?

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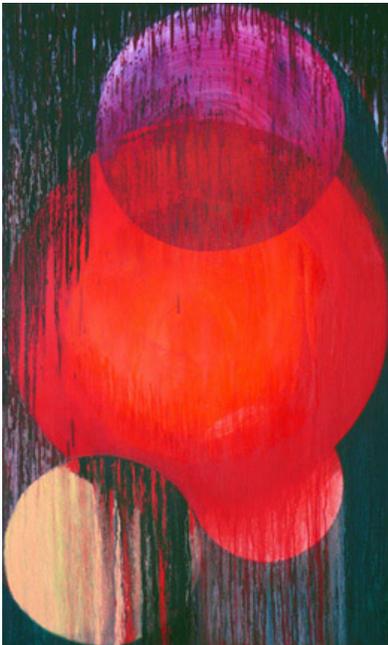
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What shapes do you see? Colors? Textures?

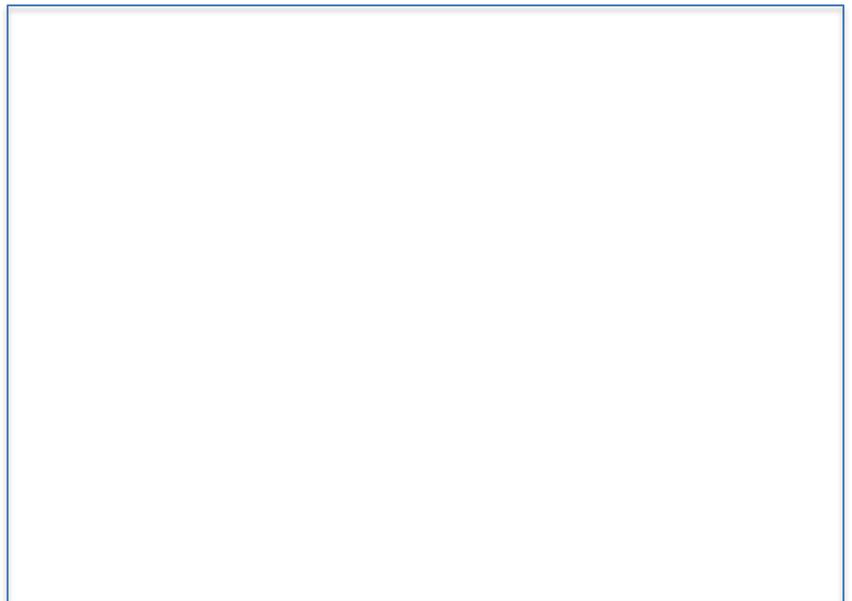
Look for the *title* of the artwork on a label on the wall near it. The title is *in slanty writing*. What is the title of the artwork? Does the title change the way you look at it?

Why do you think the artist gave the artwork this title?

This artist was inspired by geometry (shapes) and astronomy (stars). What connections do you think she is making?



Dorothea Rockburne
Three Point Manifold, 2008
Winsor Newton watercolor on Dura-Lar®
stretched over canvas
© 2015 Dorothea Rockburne /
Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York



Use this box to draw your own work of abstract art,
using shapes and stars to inspire you!

A Gift of Knowing: The Art of Dorothea Rockburne, on view March 14 – April 26, 2015
Mapping the Ancient Origins of Light, on view March 19 – June 7, 2015
at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art
bowdoin.edu/art-museum | 207-725-3275

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