

Fourth Grade

Title: “Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2” (1912)

Artist: Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

EALR'S: Arts

- 1.1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes- geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).
- 1.2-Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).
- 1.3-Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.
- 1.4- Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.
- 2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.
- 2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.
- 3.1- Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.
- 3.2- Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.
- 3.3- Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.
- 4.2- Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.
- 4.3- Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.
- 4.4- Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

Text:

This painting is an abstract presentation of movement. Cubist and geometric planes and shapes are repeated and superimposed over each other to create movement. The color theme is strictly neutral so as not to detract from the shapes creating the movement. This is another example of a monochromatic color scheme, where only variations of one color are used.

Questions:

1. (Do not tell the students the name of the painting initially). What way do you think this painting should be hung? Does it have a top?
2. Can you see any shapes being repeated? Are lines important to this artist?
3. (Hold painting correctly). Can anyone see what is happening here? Is there some action going on?
4. What do you think this artist was trying to do?
5. Why don't you think he used different colors? He could have made each shape a different color. How would this have looked then? Do you think you would have seen the movement of the figure going down the steps as easily if he had done that?