

Unreal!

From the FAM permanent collection

FAM
FITCHBURG
ART MUSEUM



Constance Bigelow, (North American, b. 1881-1969)
Vase of Flowers, 20th Century, watercolor on paper
Gift, 1983.17



Helen Frankenthaler (American, 1928-2011), *Untitled*,
1984, acrylic on paper, Gift of Cia Devan, 2001.44



Frederick Childe Hassam (American 1859-1935), *The
Pinafore, Isles of Shoals, Moonlight*, 1890, oil on canvas,
1994.4



Douglas Kornfeld (American, b. 1955)
Thurston, 2015, steel, paint,
Museum Purchase, Sinon Collection Fund, 2017.6

Looking for Inspiration

Artists express subjects in styles ranging from very realistic, like a photograph, to simple images without much detail, and sometimes only shapes and colors. By creating an artwork of only shapes and lines, without a recognizable subject, the artist might be showing a concept or feeling, such as emptiness or joy.

- Notice the artist Douglas Kornfeld used a few simple lines, and the empty spaces between the lines, to express a human form.
- Notice how Childe Hassam painted the water and moonlight using short brushstrokes, and things in the distance look smaller.
- Constance Bigelow used shading (a continuous color change going from dark to light) to make the vase feel 3-dimensional. What kind of brushstrokes did she use to give the impression of flowers?
- Look at the painting by Helen Frankenthaler: What does it remind you of? Why? How does it feel? Warm, cool, hard, or soft? How did the artist use the paint to make it feel that way?

Materials Painting

Instructions Paint in an abstract style!

Suggestions:

- Find a photograph of a realistic scene, person, or thing. Using one color, try to paint it using as few lines or shapes as possible while still showing the image. Try it again using two or more colors.
- To make your picture look less and less recognizable, try squinting at your photograph and painting only the most noticeable shapes and colors.
- Try painting an emotion, like happiness or excitement.
- Let your painting dry and add more to it later.