

ORANGE



Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art • Johnson County Community College



Bart Exposito (American, b. 1970)

Bends (Orange), 2010

Acrylic and pastel on canvas, 84 x 72"

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2010.42

Bart Exposito earned an MFA in 2000 from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, and a BFA in 1998 from the University of Texas, Austin. Bart made many paintings that were each called *Bends*, and each one has a different featured color. Several works from this series were featured in the Nerman Museum's exhibition *Ecstatic Structure* in 2010/2011. Bart paints with acrylics on smoothly primed canvas, starting with streaking diluted paint with a sponge over a soft pastel sketch. The streaks create visual vapor trails like the ones left by an airplane.

- What direction did the artist wipe the color in the larger space: from side to side, or up and down?
- We see a thick, curved black line that divides the painting vertically, don't we?
- On one side there is a flat gray field, and a bunch of shapes, so would we call this symmetrical or asymmetrical?
- Besides the four circle segments of light peachy colored paint, what shapes do you see?
- The skinny rectangles are all the same medium orange color, aren't they?
- How are the orange shapes different from each other?
- Besides the stretched out triangle shapes that look like dark shadows, what other triangles do you see?
- What does the group of shapes remind you of?



Les Namingha (American Indian, Hopi/Zuni, b. 1967)

Untitled, 2009

Clay, 6.5 x 9"

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.34

Les Namingha's father is Hopi and his mother is Zuni. His aunt, Dextra Nampeyo, was one of his teachers, and she followed the Hopi pottery tradition from a hundred years ago. Les also studied design at Brigham Young University. He experiments with acrylic paints instead of natural clay slips to decorate his traditionally coiled and shaped clay pots. Viewed from above, the jar shows the two different designs on each side as well as a pair of black and white shapes that are the only symmetrical parts of the design.

- Traditional Hopi pottery decoration is symmetrical, but Les' jar is asymmetrical, with different designs on each side of the pot, isn't it?
- Where do you see a black and white pattern with squares?
- What does that design remind you of?
- Besides the black triangles on top, what other triangles do you see?
- Would you say he used a tiny brush to make the speckled patterns, or a thick brush with lots of hairs?
- Which designs look like something from nature?
- The curvy pink line wanders around the lower part like a river, doesn't it?
- How might a jar with a tiny opening be used?