

PURPLE



Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art • Johnson County Community College



Jerald Ieans (American, b. 1971)

Untitled Purple Landscape, 2000

Oil on canvas, dimensions?

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2008.49

Gift of James G. Sauers, St. Louis, MO

Jerald Ieans studied art at Florissant Valley Community College in St. Louis, Missouri. Jerald makes each of his abstract paintings using one color in different ways. He works with his canvas lying flat on the floor instead of propped up on an easel. Once a layer dries, he tapes the edge and paints another color over it. Sometimes abstract artwork has exaggerated images we can recognize even though features are changed and distorted. Other abstract artworks are patterns and designs. A landscape is a picture of a natural scene, and landscapes usually have something in the front, middle, and distant background.

- This is called a landscape, but it is also abstract. What does it remind you of?
- How many different purples did Jerald use in his painting?
- Jerald overlapped the shapes, so it is harder to tell how many colors he used, isn't it?
- How would you describe each different purple?
- What makes each one unique?
- Organic shapes are free-flowing, like clouds, unlike geometric shapes we can easily name and measure. These look like organic shapes, don't they?
- What does the color purple make you think of?
- Describe the mood: what kind of feeling do you get from the color?



Robert Lostutter (American, b. 1939)

Resplendent, 2011

Watercolor on paper, 4.5 x 4.5"

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2013.04

Gift of the H Tony and Marti Oppenheimer Foundation

Originally from Emporia, Kansas, Robert Lostutter attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1958 to 1966. He still lives and works in Chicago. Robert's tiny paintings can take weeks or even months to make. Robert studied birds, and he remembers how his grandfather and great-grandfather also loved birds. Robert starts with drawing pencil portraits of himself or other people. He paints details with tiny brushes, sometimes with a brush that only has one hair. Then, he changes features from real life into imaginary shapes based on nature; hair becomes feathers or leaves, for example.

- What do the wavy lines along his jaw remind you of?
- Besides the blue hair, where else do you see blue?
- This painting is mostly purple, blue and green. Are these warm colors, or cool colors?
- His eyebrows, eyes and lips all have warm colors, don't they?
- Highlights and shadows make this look 3-dimensional. Where do you see the darkest shadows?
- Where do you see the whitest highlights?
- Is he looking out at us, or is he looking off to the side?
- How is this portrait different from your school picture?