# 5 Describing Style

## Get ready!

**1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.**

1 How can we describe a painting with lots of images or shapes in it?

2 What kind of design features repeated shapes or images?

**The Critical Eye**

With Art Critic *Danielle Donicelli*

Tuesday 21 July 2012

Renowned artist Liam Beckett has two new paintings at the Fifth Street Gallery.

The first piece is called "A Morning Pond." In the painting, the water's surface is covered with a **pattern** of leaves. It features soft, **smooth** brushstrokes and a very light **texture**. The colors **flow** gently, just like the ripples in the water.

The other painting is called "Darkness." Unlike the first piece, this one is different from Beckett's usual **style**. It features **uneven** splashes of paint and **jagged** edges. It also lacks his usual sense of **balance**. Some areas are **cluttered** with too many colors and shapes. Meanwhile, other areas are completely **empty**.

## Reading

**2 Read the review. Then, choose the correct answers.**

1 What is the main idea of the article?

- A Techniques for painting different textures.
- B Using patterns effectively in paintings.
- C Descriptions of two paintings.
- D How to achieve the proper balance in paintings.

2 What can you infer about the painter?

- A His paintings are usually similar to "A Morning Pond."
- B He does not have a sense of balance.
- C His previous paintings have not been displayed.
- D He typically paints with uneven splashes of paint.

3 What is a feature of the painting "A Morning Pond"?

- A uneven texture
- B jagged edges
- C smooth brushstrokes
- D empty areas



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## Vocabulary

**3 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).**

1 __ flow
2 __ empty
3 __ texture
4 __ pattern
5 __ jagged
6 __ smooth
7 __ balance

A a design with a repeated image
B the quality of a surface
C to move steadily and evenly
D containing nothing
E the state of being even
F having an uneven surface with sharp points
G having an even surface that is not rough

**4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.**

1 The artists style is **cluttered/empty** with too many colors and objects.
2 Both artists are popular, even though they have different **textures/styles**.
3 The bumps on the surface make the painting **uneven/smooth**.

**5 Listen and read the review again. How is the painting "Darkness" different from Beckett's usual style?**

## Listening

**6 Listen to a conversation between two art gallery visitors. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).**

1 __ The woman and the man prefer different painting styles.
2 __ The woman likes this painting more than the other paintings.
3 __ The man likes lines that are more jagged.

**7 Listen again and complete the conversation.**

**Visitor 1:** Hey, Norman. What do you think of this painting? It's called "Darkness."
**Visitor 2:** I don't really like it. It seems out of **1** _____.
**Visitor 1:** You think so? I think it's a lot **2** _____ _____ than the other paintings.
**Visitor 2:** Interesting? **3** _____ _____ _____ ugly.
**Visitor 1:** Don't you think the empty spaces work well with the **4** _____ _____?
**Visitor 2:** No, the lines are **5** _____ _____ for my taste. I prefer brushwork that seems to flow.
**Visitor 1:** Oh, I see. That's okay. Not everybody appreciates **6** _____ _____.

## Speaking

**8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.**

**USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:**

*What do you think of ...? / I call it ... / I prefer ...*

**Student A:** You are an art gallery visitor. Talk to Student B about:
- a painting
- the style of the painting
- your opinion of the painting

**Student B:** You are an art gallery visitor. Talk to Student A about the style of a painting.

## Writing

**9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the gallery feedback form.**

*Fifth Street Gallery*

*Please tell us what you think of our art!*

Title and Artist: _____

Did you like this piece? Y / N

Please describe the features you liked or disliked:

_____

_____

_____



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