

5

Describing Style

Get ready!

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

- How can we describe a painting with lots of images or shapes in it?
- What kind of design features repeated shapes or images?



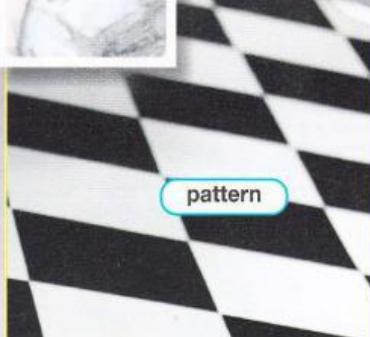
With Art Critic Danielle Donicelli

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**.



jagged

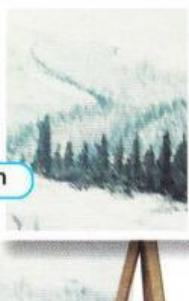


smooth



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

- uneven texture
- jagged edges
- smooth brushstrokes
- empty areas



uneven



empty



Vocabulary

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

1 <input type="text"/> flow	5 <input type="text"/> jagged
2 <input type="text"/> empty	6 <input type="text"/> smooth
3 <input type="text"/> texture	7 <input type="text"/> balance
4 <input type="text"/> pattern	

- 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 artist's 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:
