

Art 1

Name _____

Modern to Contemporary Art

Due Date _____

You earned _____ out of 20 possible points

Worksheet #3

Action vs. Abstraction

Read the article "Guardians of the Avant-Garde" and answer the following questions.

Describe the basic differences in approach between Clement Greenberg's and Harold Rosenberg's art criticism.

Define the following terms (hint: use a dictionary or ArtSpeak):

Formalism - _____

Gestural abstraction - _____

Post-painterly abstraction - _____

Kitsch - _____

The exhibition, Action/ Abstraction made a rare attempt to include artists and works that are largely forgotten when considering Abstract Expressionism in post WWII America. Identify some of the artists that are usually forgotten and explain why they were neglected by critics. What influence did Greenberg and Rosenberg have in regards to an artist's success during the time?

What criticism did Greenberg have for Pollock's and De Kooning's works from the mid 50s?

Kalina makes the argument that Pollock "was the archetypal action painter" and therefore should have been a favorite of Rosenberg's rather than Greenberg's. Why does the author suspect, Rosenberg resisted supporting Pollock and his work?

Explain the critical position that Rosenberg expressed in "The American Action Painters" for Pollock, De Kooning and Greenberg. How did the artists and critic respond?

Kalina provides numerous descriptions of Abstract Expressionist works. Find a description that you feel is particularly adept or elegant and write it here.

As stated in the article, what did sculpture fail to do according to Greenberg and how did the critic justify his overt preference for paint?

What is the only thing that Greenberg and Rosenberg agreed on according to Kalina? What were their feelings towards popular culture and minimalism? Explain.

What does Kalina credit Greenberg and Rosenberg for providing to post WWII America that is seemingly missing today from art criticism?
