

## **F13D015C - Exploring Abstract Art Part I**

**Instructor: Vanessa Coplan**

September 18 to December 4

Wednesday, 9 am to 12 noon

We will explore a variety of abstract techniques in both drawing and painting mediums such as automatic or action painting, symbolic or dream painting, and compositional play. Within each of these domains we will focus on exercises in colour, shape, line marking, rhythm and repetition. We will look at the work of Cy Twombly, Robert Rauschenberg, Willem De Kooning, Picasso, Joan Mitchell, and more.

### **Weeks 1-3: intro**

What is abstract art? We will look at examples of different types of abstraction such as abstract expressionism, hard edge abstraction and colourfield painting.

We will explore the foundations of abstract compositions through a series of exercises:

Week 1: line, mark- making, direction, mass, Tonality

Week 2: shapes, geometric, organic, singularity, multiplicity, repetition,

Week 3: cut outs- using collage to compose a drawing or painting

### **Weeks 4-6: colour part I**

Week 4: monochromatic, warm & cool contrasts.

Week 5: primary, secondary, tertiaries, complementaries

Week 6: subjective colour, earth tones, muted tones, personal palettes

### **Week 7-9: colour and composition (part II)**

Saturation, extension, balance, rhythm, hue, value,

Triangles, circles

Lead ins, arcs, golden section, thirds "all overness", minimalism

### **Weeks 10-12: automatic painting, dreams, symbolism**

Automatic or action drawing & painting

Symbolic or disjunctive narratives/non-linear formations

### **Supply List:**

pencils, pastels (chalk & oil),

coloured pencils

conté,

charcoal

oil stix

waterbased paint, i.e.: acrylics, w/c

gesso

mayfair paper

rag

erasers

vegetable oil

vegetable oil

W/c paper

canvas boards

mylar