

Stuart Davis

Print: Combination Concrete

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

1956 - 58. Oil on canvas, 71 x 53 in. (180.3 x 134.6 cm)

Davis' method of painting was to draw until the composition was as complex as the original idea. He was infatuated with the urban hustle and bustle and it shows in this print. The idea is very abstract. So it can be very complex for us, but to a child let them tell you what they see.

What colors do you see?

Talking about how colors create mood. Some colors are warm and exciting; others are cool and peaceful. The ways colors are combined in a picture help create the mood. You can also talk about how emotions are linked symbolically with colors, as in "tickled pink," "green with envy," "feeling blue," etc.

Ask students to identify the colors they see, encouraging them to use descriptive words. What do they think was the artist's intent? What is the mood/feeling they see in the picture?

What letters or words do you see?

Why would an artist use letters and words in their artwork?

What types of lines do you see?

Straight or curvy? Thick or thin?

When we see straight lines there is no movement, but squiggly lines show movement. **Is there movement in this picture?**

What shapes do you see?

What do you think this is a picture of? Is there a story to this picture?

Tell them the name of the print – Combination Concrete

Combination: to mix up or to blend

Concrete: what is that? Where is that?

Now that we know the name does that help you figure out where or what the picture is?

Is this a city or country? Has anyone been to a big city? What goes on there?

What would you see in the city?

Do you hear sounds?

Do you think that Stuart Davis liked the city?