

# All About Abstraction!



**Alan Goldstein (b. 1938)**  
*Upriver from Lumberville Walking Bridge II*,  
1981  
Oil on Canvas  
James A. Michener Art Museum  
Purchased with funds provided by Anne and  
Joseph Gardocki

Perhaps this painting doesn't look like any other artwork you've seen before – and that's the point! Modern artists wanted to break away from older, more traditional styles of creating art. They wanted to try new methods, materials and techniques. With modern art, viewers have to think differently because the piece may not depict recognizable objects.

The term **abstract** art is a style of modern art and it comes from the artists "abstracting" or selecting a special view of his or her subject to focus on. The term **abstract** also means a piece of artwork that **doesn't look realistic**. To create an abstract work, perhaps the artist will paint from a new angle; perhaps he or she will pick out or "abstract" the dominant colors or shapes to emphasize those aspects in the work. *Upriver from Lumberville Walking Bridge II* is a good example of this style of painting. It is a painting of something many of us familiar with Bucks County may have seen.

If you use your imagination, modern art may surprise you with interesting perspectives. The artwork is not as easy to create as it seems. **Give it a try!** Pick your favorite landscape setting and try to recreate it in an **abstract** style on a piece of paper. Use the art materials of your choice to add color.



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JAMES A.  
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