

Painted Shapes



A C T I V I T Y S H E E T

Squint your eyes and look at *Nunamaker Farmhouse*.

- What part of the painting do you see most? What part can you see least?
- Do you see that the painting is divided up into some very simple shapes?
- Are they shapes you can name like rectangle, circle or triangle? Or are they weird shapes that you cannot identify?
- Are they shapes you also see in Whitesell's *Autumn Scene*?
- What about Nunamaker's *Springtime in the Catskills*?
- Are certain shapes used to represent certain things in all of the paintings?



Anne Yost Whitesell, *Nunamaker Farmhouse*, n.d., oil on canvas, 20 x 24, collection of Bucks County Intermediate Unit, photo courtesy of James A. Michener Art Museum library



Anne Yost Whitesell, *Untitled (Autumn Scene)*, n.d., oil on canvas, collection of Bucks County Intermediate Unit, photo courtesy of James A. Michener Art Museum library



Kenneth Nunamaker, *Springtime in the Catskills*, n.d., oil on canvas, 21.5 x 23.5, collection of Bucks County Intermediate Unit, photo courtesy of James A. Michener Art Museum library

Try this:

Lay a piece of tracing paper on top of one of the paintings on this page. Look for shapes in the image (not specific objects). Trace all or some of the shapes you see until your tracing paper has an interesting composition. Remove the tracing paper from the page. Compare your shapes with what you see in the original painting? Have you created an abstract version of the original work of art? Add color with markers, colored pencils or crayons (or all three!) to finish your work.

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