

## Different strokes: the forgotten women of abstract expressionism

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** The article describes a new art exhibition in London featuring 80 female artists from around the world, which is expanding the body of abstract expressionist artwork.

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking, Writing

**Language focus:** Words with multiple meanings

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

#### 1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of art and get students thinking about their art preferences. Make sure learners give reasons for their ranking. If students like other types of art, encourage them to add to the list.

#### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually, and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. If you want to preview the language focus, mention that *show* has other meanings. As a verb, one meaning is to give information that you can see, e.g., *Show me on the map, please*. *Clear* has another meaning too. As a verb, it means 'take away', e.g., *They cleared the snow from the road*.

**Key:**

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. e | 5. a |
| 2. g | 6. b |
| 3. f | 7. h |
| 4. c | 8. d |

- b. Students fill the gaps in the sentences using words from task a.

**Key:**

1. famous
2. believe
3. international
4. show

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers, and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 2, they may say "It has 80 international artists," or similar.

**Key:**

1. True
2. False. This art show has art from 80 women.
3. False. Abstract expressionism started in the 1940s in New York.
4. True
5. True
6. False. They are from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.
7. False. Most of them are not famous.
8. True
9. True
10. False. It was very difficult to find them.
11. True

#### b. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise in pairs, and then compare their answers with other students. These words can all be found in the text. As an extension activity, ask students to make sentences with them.

**Key:**

1. b, h
2. c, f
3. d, e
4. a, g

- b. Ask students to complete the sentences individually. Then put them in pairs to decide which of the meanings in task a are used in the sentences.

**Key:**

1. rooms
2. clear
3. kind
4. show

## Different strokes: the forgotten women of abstract expressionism

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

#### 5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their answers to each question and encourage them to give at least one reason.

#### 6. In your own words

- a. The task could also be done as a homework task, and students could then present their reports to the class. Encourage students to include biographical details and at least one example of the artist's work.