

# WHAT I SEE

## Looking at Abstract Art

Islamic Art has been around for over one thousand years. Lots of different styles of Islamic Art have developed over this time.

Abstract art—where the work is more obscure—first started in the early 1900s. Many artists still create abstract art, like this painting by Mohamed Abumeis, which is on display at the Islamic Museum of Australia.

Look at Mohamed's work. What do you see?

What do you think Mohamed is trying to say through his abstract painting?



Mohamed Abumeis  
*Transnational Advocacy Space and Place, 2013*  
Oil on canvas  
150cm x 110cm

# Make your own abstract art

One of the best things about abstract art is that anyone can make it!

No matter what your art looks like, your meaning and intention will always be there, because it is your *personal* and *unique* interpretation.

To make your own abstract art, you will need:

- A piece of paper
- Pencils, pens, markers, paint, chalk, or any other materials of your choice

What to do:

1. Find a subject to inspire your artwork. It could be a piece of fruit, something in your home, your favourite song or a sport that you like to play.
2. Take your materials and begin illustrating your subject in an abstract way. The key is to make sure your artwork doesn't look exactly like your subject. For example, if you're making an artwork inspired by the AFL, you don't want to depict a football—this is too literal!

Handy hint:

- You know how sometimes you can see pictures of animals or other objects when you look up at the clouds in the sky? This is a helpful way to think about abstract art: clouds don't really look like anything, but we can make shapes and forms out of them.



## You're all finished!

The team at the Islamic Museum of Australia would love to see your abstract artworks. Ask your parent, guardian or carer if you can send a photo to us through Facebook or Instagram by searching **Islamic Museum of Australia**.