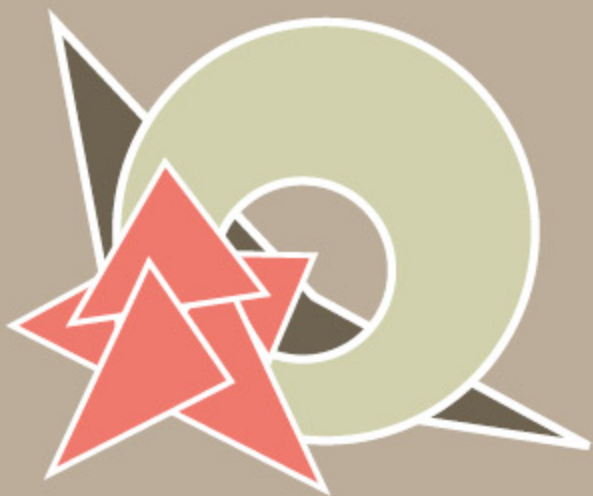


What is Abstract Art?



Find the painting that includes this detail:



What shapes and colors did the artist use to distort the person in this painting? Draw some of the shapes you notice.

Many artworks in this gallery do not look realistic. They are **abstract**.

Abstract art does not show things exactly as we see them in the world. When making an abstract artwork, the artist may focus on the process of making or on elements of art like line, color and shape. Sometimes in abstract art we can recognize people, places or things even if they look exaggerated or distorted.



Jean Metzinger, *Soldier at a Game of Chess*, 1915–16, Oil on canvas, 32 x 24 in. Smart Museum of Art, Gift of John L. Strauss, Jr. in memory of his father, John L. Strauss, 1985.21. © 2006 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris.

The style of this painting is called **Cubism**. In cubist artworks, objects and people are shown as simple shapes. Rather than showing only one view of something, the artist includes many views of the same thing. This is not as easy as it might look!

Look at someone who came with you to the
Try drawing each other using just simple shapes.

the Museum today. Compare the real person with the soldier in the painting.
shapes.

