

Abstract Creations

Amalie Rothschild (1916-2001) was a painter, sculptor, and printmaker. She was born to a German Jewish family in Baltimore and lived her entire life in the city. As an artist, she worked in many different media and her works often involved a variety of materials including plexiglass, aluminum, bronze, bark, oil and acrylic paint, and watercolor. Unlike Jacob Glushakow, she did not try to capture the world as it looked. Instead, she worked in a style called geometric abstraction, which involves using shapes, forms, and colors to express feelings and ideas instead of accurately representing a specific subject matter.

Explore some of the images Rothschild's artworks and then create your own abstract geometric drawing.

What you will need:

- Paper
- Materials of choice (markers, pens, pencils)



Amalie Rothschild in her studio in 1988.
image courtesy of www.amalierothschild.com

Abstract Creations

What to do:

- Look at the images of Amalie Rothschild's works. What do you notice about them? What is similar and what is different between her artworks and those of Glushakow? What shapes can you recognize in her artworks?
- Gather your paper and other materials. If you would like, you can also get things around your house with interesting shapes and use them to trace onto your piece of paper. Or you can freely draw different shapes like triangles, squares, circles, trapezoids, diamonds, etc.
- Try adding lines, squiggles, and other forms in between the shapes you've drawn.
- If you would like, you can add color to your drawing. Abstract art is often about expressing emotion through color so think about the mood you would like your drawing to have when selecting the colors.
- Make sure to sign your name and date your drawing when you are finished.

Bonus Challenge: In some of Rothschild's works, she used geometric shapes to give the idea or impression of her subject. In her piece, "Moses," she used basic shapes to give the impression of a Torah without making it closely resemble a real-life version of the object. Find an object in your home and see if you can create a drawing or sculpture of it using only basic shapes.



"Decalogue." (1997), JMM 1987.050.001a



Study for "Cum Laude" (1980), image courtesy of the Baltimore Museum of Art



"Moses." JMM 1988.136.001

"Ripening of the Oranges."

