

Art and Picture Books: Early Learning Activity

Look closely at this painting. Do the lines remind you of anything you have seen before—real or imagined? The artist Willem de Kooning used large movements and brushstrokes to create this work. This technique came to be known as “action painting.”

Use yarn or pipe cleaners to try and recreate some of the shapes that you see.



Willem de Kooning. *Untitled*, 1948-49. Gift from the Mary and Earle Ludgin Collection.

PICTURE BOOK CONNECTIONS

“The Shape of Me and Other Stuff” by Dr. Seuss

[READ ALOUD LINK](#)

After reading “The Shape of Me and Other Stuff,” look back at the painting.

Can you imagine what the shapes in the painting could become?

Related Illinois Early Learning Standards (PreK-K)

Learning Standard 2.D
Learning Standard 9.A

Establish personal connection with books.
Recognize, name, and match common shapes.

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