

Grace Hartigan

- March 28, 1922 – November 15, 2008
- Second-generation New York Abstract Expressionist
- Precursor to Pop art.
- Disciple of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning
- “I didn’t choose painting. It chose me. I didn’t have any talent. I just had genius.”
- Married four times and unfaithful to each husband



Early years

- Total abstraction
 - *Six by Six, 1951*. On the top right. —————^

1950s and 1960s

- Started figurative painting in the early 1950s.
- Old Master: painters in Europe before 1800
 - *River Bathers, 1953*. It is also the one in the slide “Just the art”. On the upper middle right —>



How this painting is an example of abstraction in art?

- “Representational”: *looked* like something recognizable
- *Grand Street Brides, 1954*
 - Based on Goya's *Carlos IV of Spain and His Family, 1800*
 - Brides are shown as if for sale because aristocratic women in 19th century were traded as object to engaged between powerful families for political issues.
 - Theme of shop windows and their displays.
 - On the lower middle right. —————>



Critical Reception

- “Unlike most women of the time, her work sold well, especially after her inclusion—as the only woman—in MoMA’s 1956 show “Twelve Americans,” which also featured paintings by Philip Guston and Franz Kline and resulted in the sale of her largest work to Nelson Rockefeller.”
- “she drank like a fish, cursed like a sailor, slept with whomever she wished and let nothing interfere with her belief that she was a great artist.”
- Irving Sandler: “She simply dismisses the vicissitudes of the art market, the succession of new trends in the art world. ... Grace is the real thing.”
- Clement Greenberg like her abstraction and oppose her figuration.
- “Though filled with shards of color and active gesture, her canvases never completely relinquished content.”

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