

Basic Detail Report



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Title: Abstraction with Red Circle

Date: 1938

Primary Maker: com.gallerysystems.emuseum.core.entities.RecordXPerson@3ef51

Medium: Oil on canvas

Description: In "Abstraction with Red Circle" of 1938, Slobodkina creates a dynamic composition based on abstract principles of design. As a painter, she was influenced

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by Surrealism, specifically Joan Miró, Russian Constructivism, and the De Stijl principles of Mondrian and her early mentor Bolowtovsky. Slobodkina plays with black lines and multi-colored shapes on a neutral ground to create a precarious asymmetrical composition. The placement of the shapes is careful and precise. Linear forms of varying widths intersect and overlap a variety of rectangles, circles, triangles, and oddly rounded planes. All seem to float in space, locked to the frame by the tip of the bottom white plane and one of the black lines. The viewer's eye is drawn back in space by the long black triangle to the small red circle, whose intensity of its color bounces it back to the surface. Despite the serious affect of the hard-edged forms, the composition is filled with movement. Slobodkina normally prepared multiple studies and had a unique process of transferring her sketches onto the canvas. Time consuming and cumbersome, this nonetheless enabled her to perfect her compositions. Space is an important element in "Abstraction with Red Circle". Depth is created by diagonal lines, overlapping shapes and color contrasts. Lines and angles lead the viewer's eye across the entire picture plane, ping ponging from element to element until finally settling in the central area between the green, yellow and red shapes. Small circles pierce larger forms and create a pattern of repetition that sets up an oval movement, linking together the diverse shapes. Slobodkina plays with the viewer, pushing and pulling her back and forth in space, forcing her to size up colors and forms and testing her ability to decipher what she sees. K.E. and H.L.

Dimensions: 28 x 12 in. (71.1 x 30.5 cm)