

Activity Sheet

Opus O.296 Disintegrated Target

By Alan Davie

Oil on canvas

1960

213.4 x 172.7 cm

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London



Discuss the following questions with your group in front of the painting.

What are your first reactions to the work? What do you think the painting is about?

How has the artist used his paints? Why do you think he painted this way?

Alan Davie was also a musician. Looking at this painting, what type of music do you think inspired him when he painted?

Many of Alan's works also include symbols. What shapes and symbols do you see in this painting, and why do you think the artist has decided to include them?

About the Artist

Alan Davie is an abstract painter who was born in Scotland in 1920, with a distinguished career spanning from the 1950s to present day. His brightly-coloured painting has been characterised by its automatic style and its spontaneous technique. In more recent decades Davie has become more influenced by symbols and spirituality, and this is reflected in the imagery and objects in his paintings. For Davie, painting is an *experience*, one which is exciting and full of life: he is a keen jazz musician, and enjoyed flying gliders and sailing as a young man.

Suggested extension activities

1. Drawing from Music: Play different types of music (jazz, classical, etc.) for your group and ask them to draw what the music makes them feel. Make sure there are a lot of different colours available to them and ask them why they are using particular colours and including particular symbols or shapes. It can be a landscape, a still-life, or something abstract – let their imaginations run free!
2. Writing a short story: As well as painting and playing music, Alan Davie enjoyed flying gliders and sailing as a young man. Ask your group to think about some of their favourite activities and ask them to write a short story inspired by, or about their participation in these activities.