

Frank Stella: *Darabjerd III*

Frank Stella is an Italian American artist who used a protractor as his basic unit in the *Protractor* series. This painting's title, *Darabjerd III*, refers to an ancient city in Asia Minor built on a circular plan.



Discussion

Students analyze Stella's geometric color composition and learn about his Minimalist style.

They identify radial symmetry, analogous colors, tertiary colors, and hard-edge shapes. They discuss the balance, asymmetry and the mathematical implication of overlapping intersecting shapes.

Project: Color Fans

Students draw and arrange protractor shapes using radial symmetry to paint color wedges using analogous and tertiary colors in a non-objective color study.

Frank Stella, *Darabjerd III*
1967, acrylic on canvas, 120 1/8 in. x 180 1/4 in.
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA
Gift of Joseph H. Hirshhorn, 1972
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