

American Art: Mid-20th Century and Beyond
Study Sheet

Philip Guston, *Bronze*, 1955, 58.34

Start by looking at the paint – what three words would you use to describe it?

Make movements as if you were painting this canvas. Pick three adjectives to describe your movements.

What three words would you use to describe the colors?

Engage your other senses – what does the painting feel like, smell like, taste like?

Grace Hartigan, *Billboard*, 1957, 57.35

If possible, complete the following question with a partner. Imagine the Guston and Hartigan paintings are having a dialog. Each of you takes on the role of one painting.

What is *Bronze* saying?

What is *Billboard* saying?

How do the two works then respond to one another?

Louise Nevelson, *Chinese Landscape*, 1959, 2005.127.1

Choose any Chinese landscape from Mia's website to compare with Nevelson's work. What elements do you see that are similar? How does Nevelson capture the essence of a Chinese landscape?

What is the effect (for you) of her choice to paint the whole object black?

Chuck Close, *Frank*, 1969, 69.137

Standing in front of *Frank*, how do you react to this image?

What is your eye drawn to?

What do you see reflected in Frank's glasses? How does the reflected image influence your impression of Frank?