

OBJECT of the **month**

June 2022

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Thanks for tuning in to Object of the Month. In this video, we'll take a quick look at a vibrant artwork in the DAI's American art collection.

Spend a few moments with the painting on your screen. Pause the video if you'd like.

What is your first impression of the artwork? How would you describe its colors, shapes and lines?

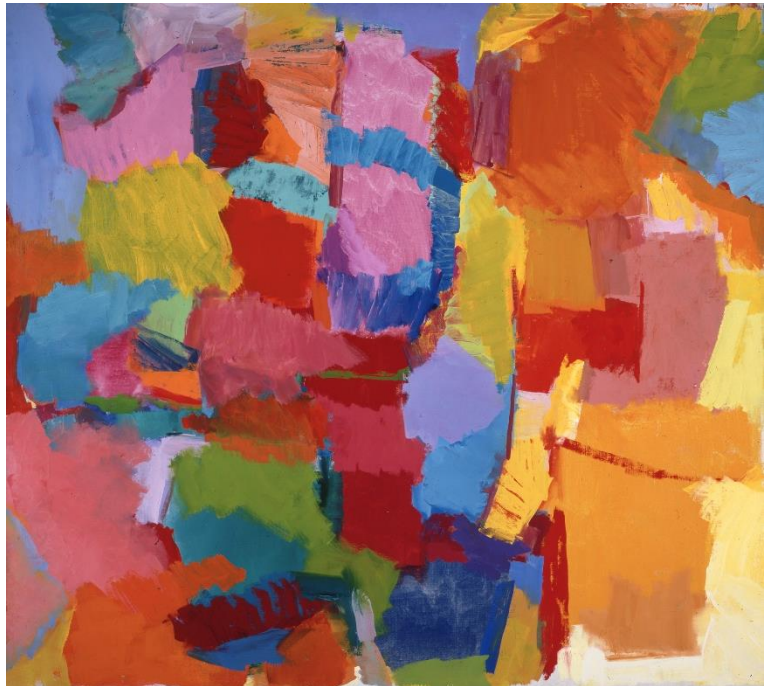
Notice how the vibrant, warm tones of yellow, orange, periwinkle, red, and more, seem to bump into one another and compete for space. The artist applied wide swaths of pure color in thick brushstrokes. Many of the shapes display more than one color at a time, mixing together in front of our eyes right there on the canvas. While perhaps a bit haphazard, many of these cloudlike shapes are reminiscent of squares and rectangles with irregular and loose edges.

How would you characterize the temperature and the mood of the painting? Titled *Summer Afternoon*, to me this painting feels warm, almost too warm, but with hints of a cool breeze coming from the shades of blue and purple. And, I might describe the painting's mood as excited, busy and a bit scattered.

During the time in the artist, Ray Parker's, career when he painted *Summer Afternoon*, improvisation played a critical role in his creative process. Associated with school of Color Field Painting, he became known for these types of "Simple Paintings", and while creating them he allowed the colors and shapes to develop organically and determine the direction of the work. Said the artist in 1982:

"Those isolated spots of color came to me just by staring at the empty canvas...I spread it out until it came into fullness of volume or a sense of reality, and I stopped there."

We invite you to visit the Dayton Art Institute and spend some time with *Summer Afternoon*, which can be found in the Katy Dicke Gallery of Post-1945 American Art, Gallery 202. Thanks for tuning in.



DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) to access the video presentation.

FEATURED ARTWORKS*

Ray Parker (American, 1922–1990), *Untitled*, 1960, oil on canvas. The Phillips Collection, D.C., Gift of Gifford and Joann Phillips, 2009, 2009.001.0004

Ray Parker (American, 1922–1990), *Untitled*, 1959, oil on canvas. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, NY., Gift of Seymour H. Knox, Jr., 1960, K1960:9

MEDIA CREDITS*

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