

# Red

Seeing It

# Iron Oxide

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWZampTCSMo>
- Why barns are red

# The History of Red

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5S4GIs89UE&t=43shttps://artfi  
lemagazine.com/famous-red-paintings/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5S4GIs89UE&t=43shttps://artfi<br/>lemagazine.com/famous-red-paintings/)
- <https://art-facts.com/famous-red-paintings/>
- [https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-secret-history-of-the-  
color-red/-wXxao99SLXVKg?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-secret-history-of-the-<br/>color-red/-wXxao99SLXVKg?hl=en)

# Cinnabar--Vermilion

Cinnabar, or cinnabarite, from the Ancient Greek: κιννάβαρι, is the bright scarlet to brick-red form of mercury(II) sulfide. It is the most common source ore for refining elemental mercury and is the historic source for the brilliant red or scarlet pigment termed vermilion and associated red mercury pigments.

Cinnabar, vermilion, and “dragon’s blood” in earlier times. Its vibrant red color was a great attraction for people looking for pigments.

One of the brightest, most vibrant red pigments used in ancient times was called vermillion. Created from the ore of mercury called cinnabar, vermillion is highly toxic. Those who mined the substance and processed for use in Roman murals or in Chinese stone wear often died from mercury poisoning. But the finished color was brilliant, and the fact that blood had been shed to acquire it only added to its prestige as a symbol of power.

<https://owlcation.com/stem/Cinnabar-A-Beautiful-But-Toxic-Mineral-Ore-and-Pigment>



**Cinnabar** is a toxic mercury sulfide [mineral](#) with a chemical composition of  $\text{HgS}$ . It is the only important ore of mercury. It has a bright red color that has caused people to use it as a pigment, and carve it into jewelry and ornaments for thousands of years in many parts of the world. Because it is toxic, its pigment and jewelry uses have almost been discontinued.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/collection-insights/2018/cinnabar-vermilion>



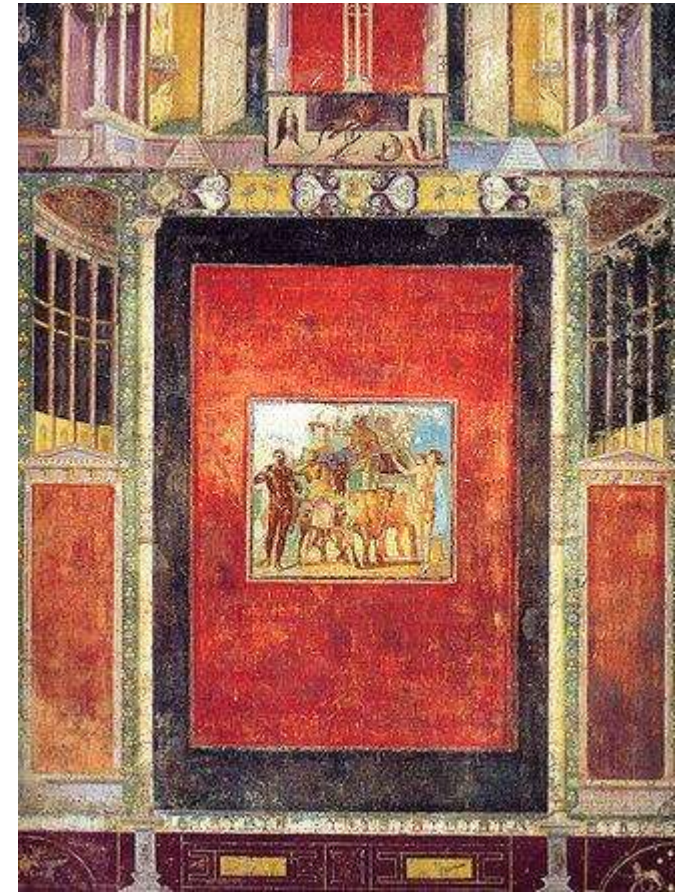
# Pompeii

Buried in the catastrophic eruption in 79 AD, the brilliant Pompeian red has been preserved forever by the lava of Mount Vesuvius and still makes an impressive show in several frescoes.

"Though it consists of simple cinnabar pigment, Pompeian red is really unique. It certainly stands out when compared to normal cinnabar paint layers." The ancient Romans added some bigger grains to the finely processed cinnabar powder, made of grains measuring about 2-3 microns. The result was a glittering surface that did not lose its saturated red tone.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETd7pszxhnc&t=54s> (recreation)













# Cochineal

The cochineal is a scale insect in the suborder Sternorrhyncha, from which the natural dye carmine is derived. A primarily sessile parasite native to tropical and subtropical South America through North America, this insect lives on cacti in the genus *Opuntia*, feeding on plant moisture and nutrients.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5S4GIs89UE&t=43s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qSQuBW4GKk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us9VHd4tuQ0>





# Jan Van Eyck

- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/northern-renaissance1/burgundy-netherlands/v/jan-van-eyck-portrait-of-a-man-self-portrait>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/northern-renaissance1/burgundy-netherlands/v/jan-van-eyck-the-madonna-in-the-church-c-1438>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/northern-renaissance1/burgundy-netherlands/v/ghent-altar-open>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/northern-renaissance1/burgundy-netherlands/v/ghent-altarpiece-closed>



# Red Pigments

Over the white chalk ground is a thin layer of the opaque red [pigment](#), vermillion, bound in a medium of heat-bodied linseed oil (identified by [GC-MS](#)). This seems to have been a flat, unmodelled layer, brushed in broadly. Over this red underlayer, the folds of the dress were modelled with layers of red lake glaze.

Analysis by [HPLC](#) reveals that the paint of the glazes contains two separate dyestuffs. The principal component is kermes from the scale insect, Kermes vermilio Planchon, the most expensive red dyestuff. Some madder, the dyestuff from the plant Rubia tinctorum L., is also present. Its distinctive fluorescence in ultraviolet can be seen in particles in the cross-section.

Although GC-MS analysis confirmed that the binding medium of the glaze layers is the same heat-bodied linseed oil as in the underpaint, some protein was detected by [FTIR](#). This indicates that one of the dyestuffs used to make the red lake pigment, most probably the madder, was sourced from shearings of a dyed red woollen textile.<sup>1</sup>







traditional red robe underneath a blue cloak. The symbolism behind the red drapery of her garment is linked to Christ's passion, life, and energy.

**The color also expresses Christ's sacrifice and redemption as seen in many [religious paintings](#).**

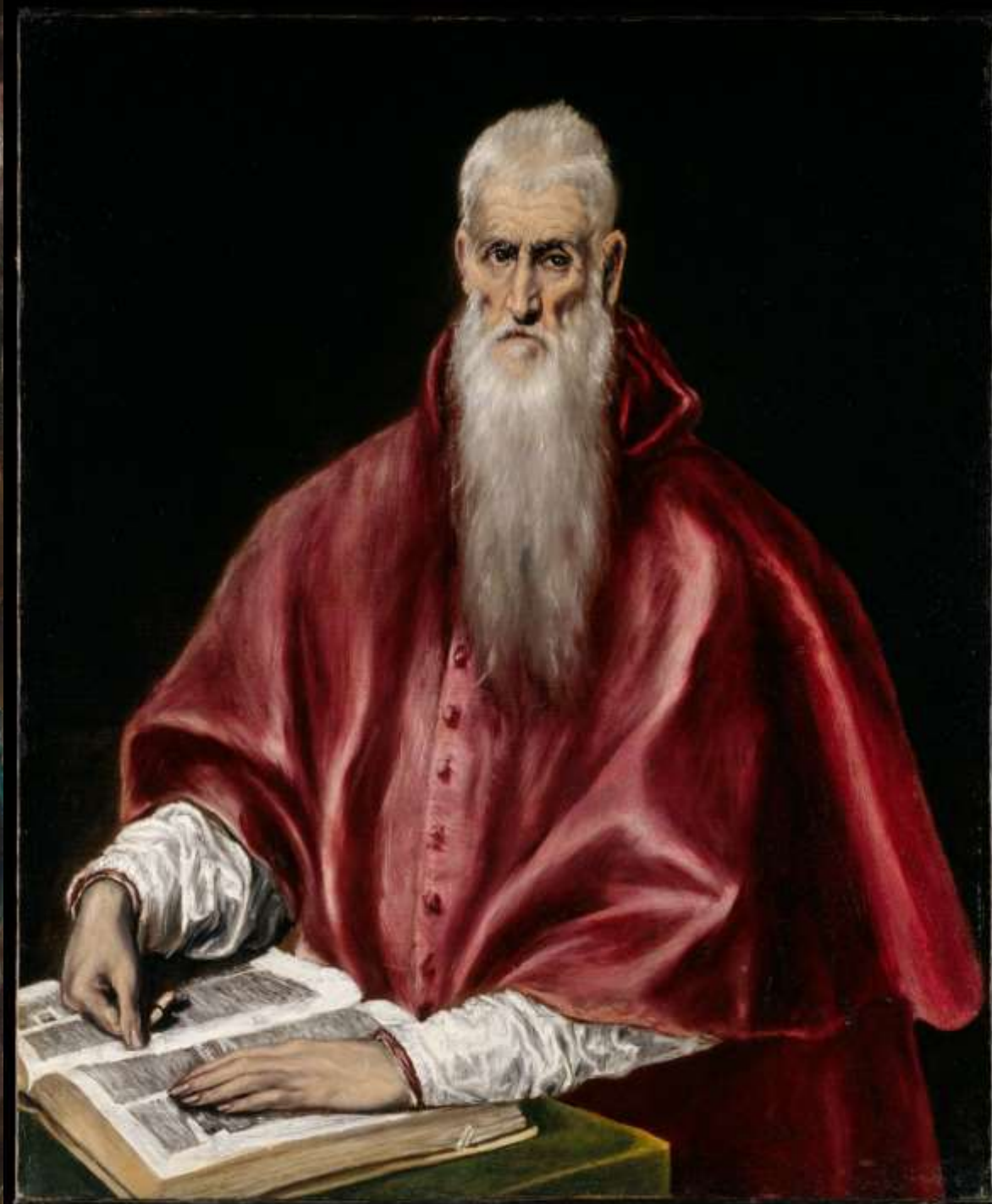


# El Greco

**The Disrobing of Christ** is one of the many distinctive **paintings by El Greco** (1541-1614), the **famous Mannerist artist** who served as a source of inspiration for countless future artists. The entire composition revolves around the figure of Christ who is wearing a blood-red robe.

[https://www.frick.org/interact/miniseries/where\\_world/cochineal](https://www.frick.org/interact/miniseries/where_world/cochineal)











# Claude Monet—La Japonaise

“Madame Monet wearing a Kimono” by Claude Monet depicts Camille, the artist’s wife, in a splendid kimono standing in front of a wall covered in Japanese fans.

Paintings of European women in Japanese costume were popular in France in the second half of the 1800s. Monet’s wife, Camille, is wearing a blond wig in this painting to emphasize her Western identity.

Monet exhibited this work at the second group show of the Impressionist painters in 1876, where it attracted much attention.

This full-length portrait of Camille wearing a blonde wig and staring out at the viewer with an expression that period-critics saw as sexually suggestive.

This painting was motivated by commercial and publicity reasons at a time when Monet needed money. However, it was also a witty comment on the then Paris fad for all things Japanese.

<https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/united-states-of-america/boston-museums/museum-of-fine-arts-boston/la-japonaise-by-claude-monet/>



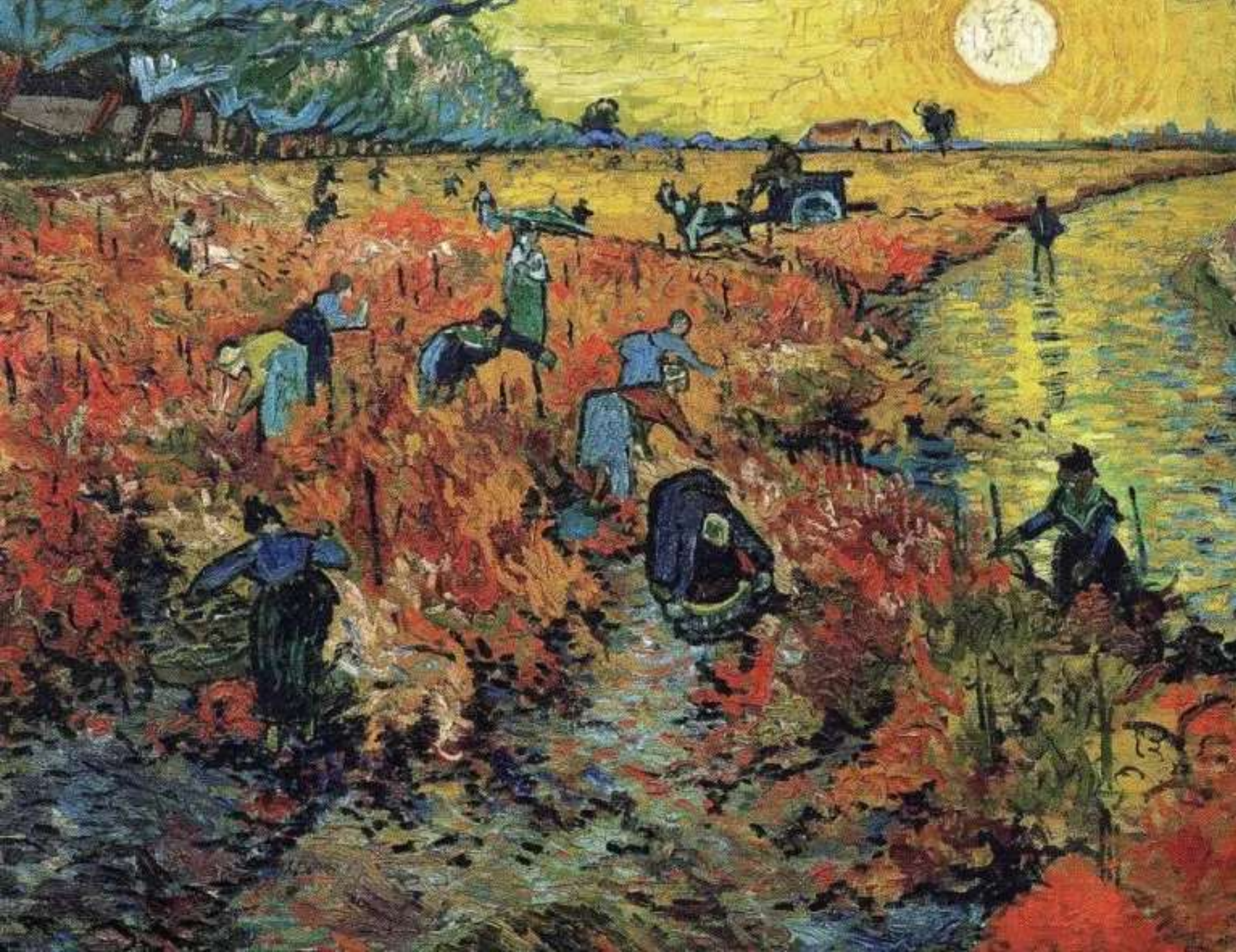


# Van Gogh--The Red Vineyard

[The Red Vineyard](#) is the title of a stunning [painting by Vincent van Gogh](#) (1853-1890), the [Dutch artist](#) who was living in Arles at the time he completed it. The painting was displayed at the annual exhibition of Les XX, 1890, in Brussels, an event that was co-founded by [James Ensor](#).

During this exhibition, the painting sold for 400 francs. This makes it the only verified sale of a painting by Vincent van Gogh while he was still alive. The buyer was Anna Boch (1848-1936), a Belgian painter who was a member of Les XX.







# Matisse—Harmony in Red (The Red Room)

**The dessert: harmony in red (The red room)**, 1908, is considered by some art historians to be Matisse's masterpiece. Matisse was greatly influenced by the Post-Impressionists, [Van Gogh](#), [Gauguin](#), [Paul Cezanne](#), and Van Gogh was an ardent admirer of Japanese art and motifs. He developed his style using areas of flat, brilliant and often unnatural colour and invariably outlined his forms in a manner similar to Van Gogh. This fauvist painting, like [Impressionists Claude Monet](#), has no central focal point. The painting initially was ordered as 'Harmony in Blue,' but Matisse was dissatisfied with the result, so he painted it over with his preferred red.

In his Paris studio with its windows looking out over a monastery garden, in 1908 Matisse created one of his most important works of the period 1908-1913. The artist himself called this a "decorative panel" and it was intended for the dining room in the Moscow mansion of the famous Russian collector Sergey Shchukin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoBC9d2rfKo>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= siEryLdM9A>





# Matisse—The Red Studio

“I don’t know why I precisely painted it this way,” Henri Matisse once said of "The Red Studio." Now seen as a groundbreaking work that introduced monochrome to the vocabulary of modern art, this 1911 painting initially baffled even the artist himself. In this video, curator Ann Temkin traces "The Red Studio’s" history—from its rejection by Matisse’s patron and the public, to its time in a London nightclub, to its eventual acquisition by MoMA—and considers the painting’s influence on subsequent generations of artists.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDYISLWAjQs&t=29s>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz\\_zwsgjRbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz_zwsgjRbw)













# Ten Thousand Mountains Bathed in Red

*Wan Shan Hong Bian translates to Ten-Thousand Mountains Bathed in Red is one of the most famous paintings in red by one of the best Chinese Contemporary guohua painters, Li Keran (Sanqi). The use of red in Chinese culture has occupied the social lives of many people and is associated with things that are classical, auspicious, and vigorous.*

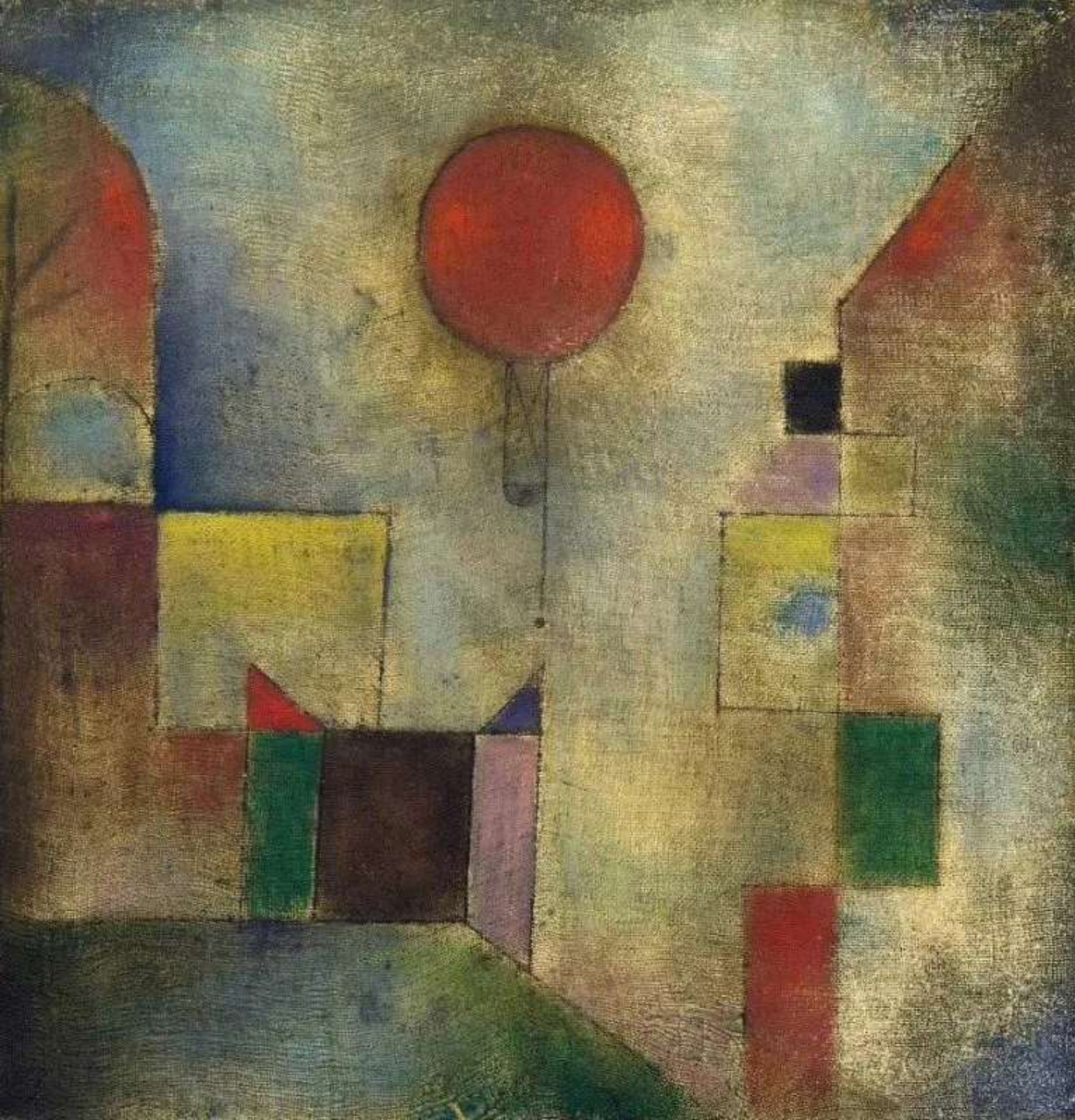
***The color also encompasses all things with a rich spiritual meaning and, to this day, it is considered an important color in Chinese culture.***

# Paul Klee—The Red Balloon

**Red Balloon** is the title of a small painting by Paul Klee (1879-1940), one of the most [famous Swiss artists](#) in history. It's one of the many distinctive paintings that Klee completed during the early 1920s, a time when he was experimenting with abstract forms.

The painting was finished the year after he started teaching at the Bauhaus School, an influential art academy that was closed when the Nazis came to power in Germany. There, he was considered to be a “Master of Form,” something that reflects in this remarkable work of art.





# Georgia O'Keefe—Red Hill and Bones

In 1929, Georgia O'Keefe turned to the beautiful landscape of New Mexico and spent the next six decades dedicated to capturing its essence in her paintings. In this famous red artwork, O'Keefe uses a varied array of red tones to depict the red hills of the American Southwest landscape. The foreground is occupied by the bleached bones that remind us of the arid nature of the region near the artist's home, Ghost Ranch.







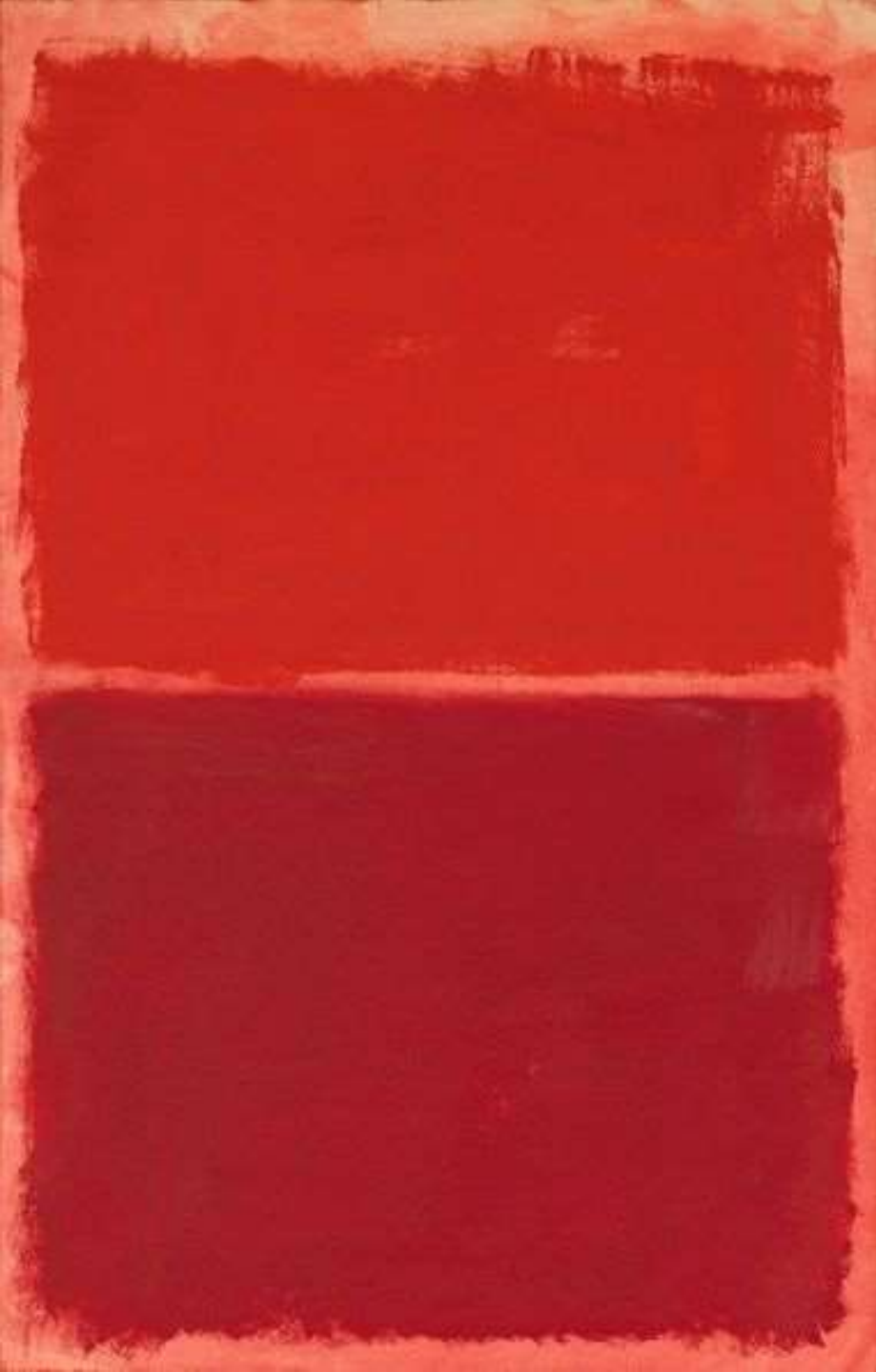




# Rothko—Red

"There is only one thing I fear in life, my friend... One day the black will swallow the red."

- <https://www.christies.com/features/high-noon-david-anfam-mark-rothko-12224-3.aspx>
- [https://www.google.com/search?q=Rothko+Red&client=firefox-b-1-d&sxsrf=AJOqlzWaFWwSf1XWX4Vk4DFCL83q0MX1Og:1674779793740&source=lnms&tbm=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjq-7r1wOb8AhXmNEQIHV1UBzgQ\\_AUoA3oECAEQBQ&biw=1182&bih=711&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:b0cccb6e,vid:d20cgwHQtOA](https://www.google.com/search?q=Rothko+Red&client=firefox-b-1-d&sxsrf=AJOqlzWaFWwSf1XWX4Vk4DFCL83q0MX1Og:1674779793740&source=lnms&tbm=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjq-7r1wOb8AhXmNEQIHV1UBzgQ_AUoA3oECAEQBQ&biw=1182&bih=711&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:b0cccb6e,vid:d20cgwHQtOA)
- [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8851190/?ref=tt\\_mv\\_close](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8851190/?ref=tt_mv_close)
- <https://thesubtimes.com/2021/06/28/red-mark-rothko-and-his-art-film-review/>







# Andy Warhol—Red Lenin

Red **Lenin** is the title of a series of paintings by Andy Warhol (1928-1987), the leading [Pop Art artist](#) of the 20th century. It depicts the important political figure, Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924). Warhol painted the Russian revolutionary politician while being drenched in red.

This particular painting was completed just months before Warhol passed away from complications of gallbladder surgery. It's one of the most celebrated mature works by the artist and while this painting is predominantly red, there are also versions with a black background.





# Louise Bourgeois

[Louise Bourgeois](#), an artist who made no secret of her desire to communicate a personal narrative through her work. Bourgeois had a famously difficult childhood, growing up in a stressful, argumentative home with a cheating father and an emotionally overwrought mother. Bourgeois confronted themes of violence, overt sexuality, infidelity, biology, fear and physical suffering through her art, and often in the process had occasion to rely on the special communicative power of the color red.

Bourgeois once said, “Color is stronger than language. It’s a subliminal communication.” She maximized its communicative powers by incorporating it frequently in her installations called cells. Each cell Bourgeois created is a self-contained environment in which various narrative objects coexist. In a series of cells titled The Red Rooms, Bourgeois used the same dark red hue to color everything from a bedspread to giant spools of yarn and thread to domestic tools and furniture to molds of severed body parts. Assembled together in these rooms the assortment of items take on a sense of surreal melancholy, with their deep red color contributing to the feeling of powerful emotion.

- <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/louise-bourgeois-2351/art-louise-bourgeois>



# Louise Bourgeois—Red Art

- <https://www.hauserwirth.com/hauser-wirth-exhibitions/6244-louise-bourgeois-the-red-sky/>
- <https://www.artsy.net/artist-series/louise-bourgeois-motherhood-and-family>
- <https://www.artsy.net/artwork/louise-bourgeois-red-room-child>
- <https://www.artsy.net/artwork/louise-bourgeois-red-room-parents-detail>
- [https://www.heimread.com/exhibitions/louise-bourgeois\\_3/gallery/installation-images](https://www.heimread.com/exhibitions/louise-bourgeois_3/gallery/installation-images)
- <https://gothamtogo.com/the-comprehensive-exhibition-louise-bourgeois-paintings-opens-at-the-met/>
- <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/louise-bourgeois-2351/art-louise-bourgeois>



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# Barnett Newman

Defined by its assertive red stripes against a backdrop of dark brown, Barnett Newman's *Adam* is one of the most famous red paintings from the 20th century that draws attention to the traditional references that Newman was inspired by. During this period, Newman was invested in the narratives of the Jewish myths of creation and used vertical stripes to reflect the presentation of God and man in the form of a single light beam.

The word also carried associations with the words *adom* (red) and *dam* (blood), which, in the painting, refers to the intimacy between man and the Earth. Newman's process involved painting a thin layer of crimson oil paint on the primed cotton duck canvas and after drying, he applied masking tape to outline the two stripes. He then applied brown paint evenly across the canvas, over the tape, and lastly clarified the edges with a knife.

<https://artfilemagazine.com/famous-red-paintings/>





# Donald Judd

This famous red painting by Donald Judd is striking as it presents an exploration of the cadmium red shade, which forms an integral part of Judd's works in printmaking and sculpture. The red artwork is a woodcut printed using cadmium red oil paint to create a stamp effect with different strips of red separated by negative spaces.

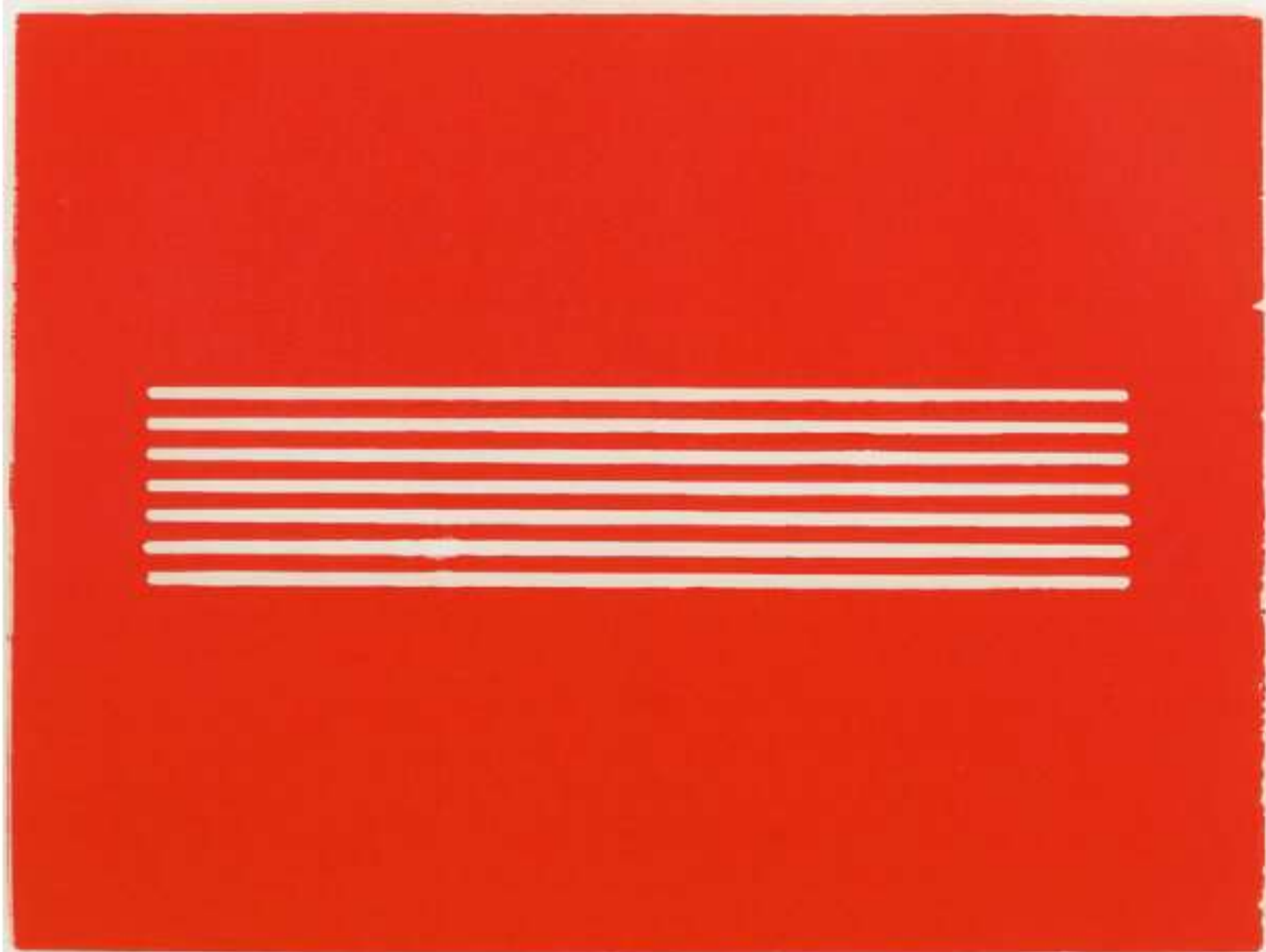
**Judd was inspired by Barnett Newman's use of the color red in his famous "zips" artworks, which disrupted artistic traditions in the division of ground and figure in painting.**

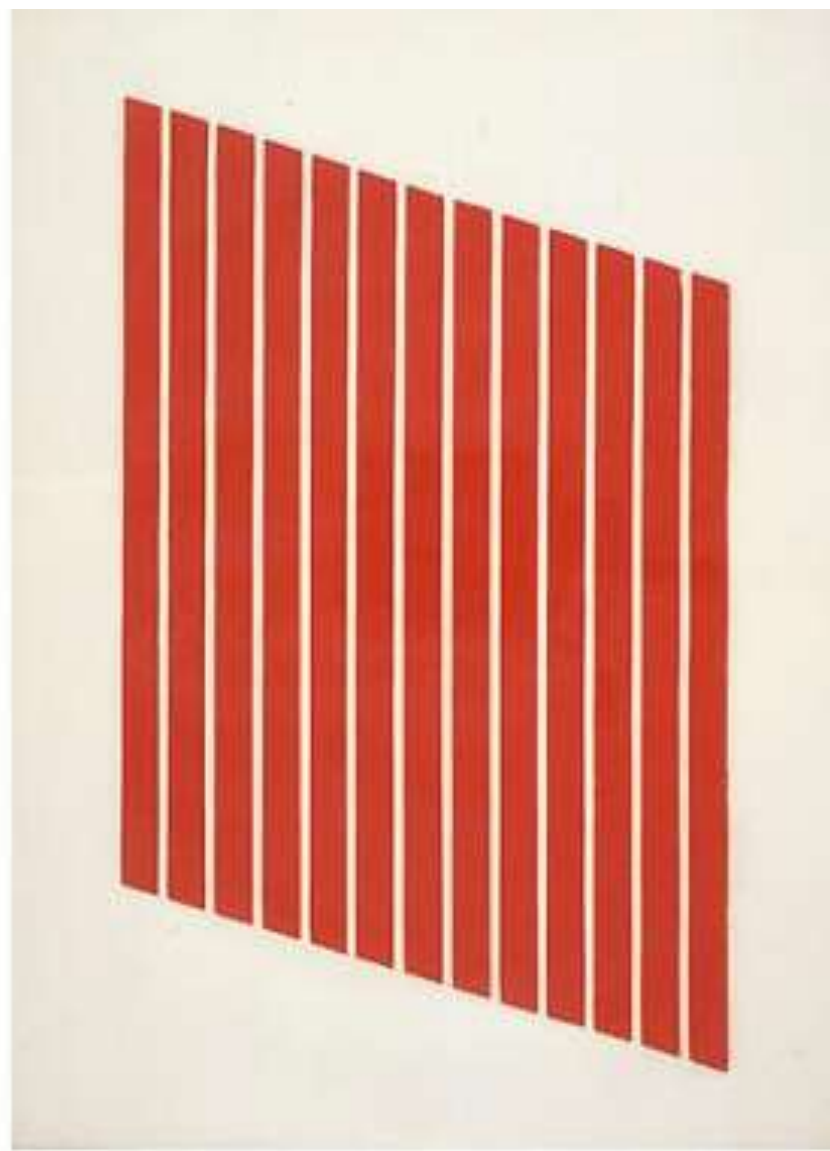
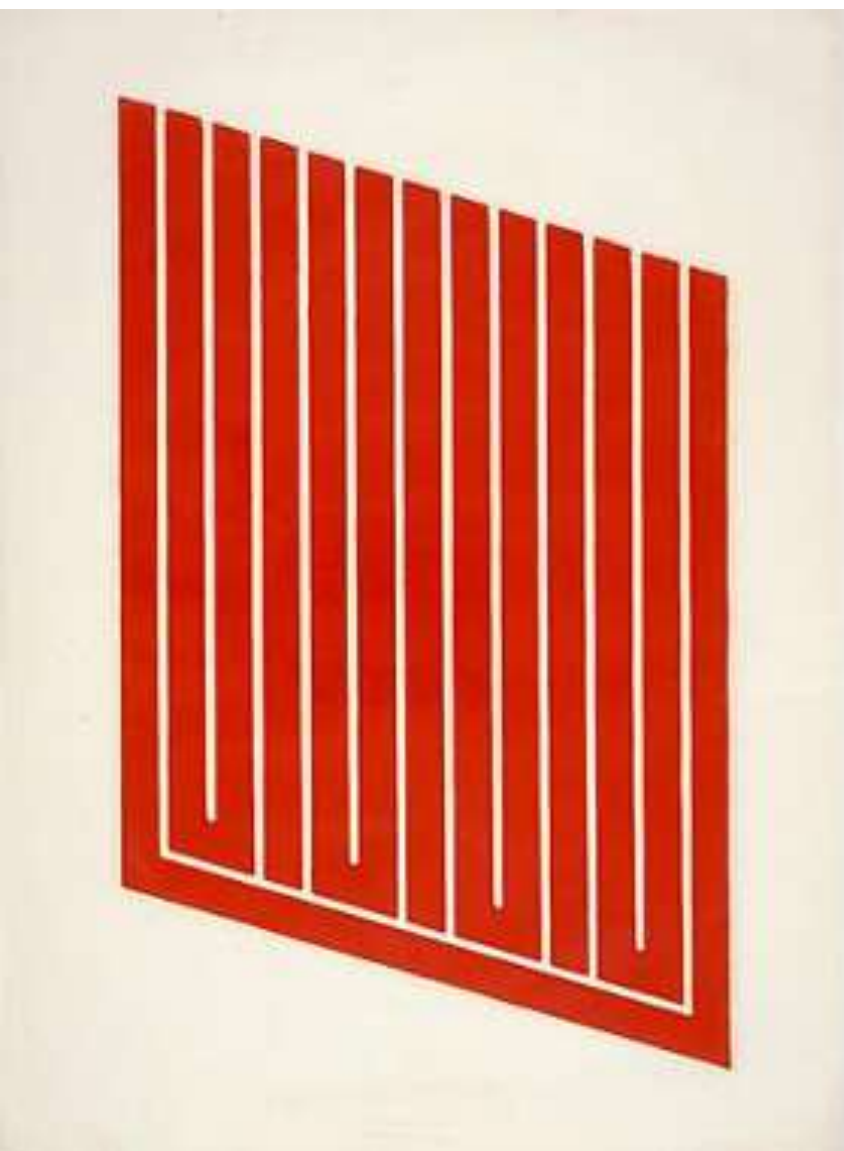
Donald Judd devoted his artistic practice to separating art from its outside associations. In a way, it might seem quite odd that Stella Paul selected Judd as an artist to highlight when talking about the color red. After all, here we have been talking about all of the cultural and emotional baggage associated with the color, but Judd explicitly hoped that the art objects he made would contain absolutely no associations. He made objects that referenced only themselves, so would he not naturally want colors that would clarify and magnify the autonomy of his built forms? Therein lies the secret to his choice of red pigments.

For his red objects, Donald Judd used a pigment called **cadmium red**. Cadmium pigments are industrial products. Cadmium red is the modern replacement for the toxic vermillion that people once died mining. Judd was keen on employing industrial manufacturing processes and materials in order to eliminate any mark of the personality of the artist from his work. He wanted products that had no narrative attached, so an industrial pigment like cadmium red was ideal. But even cadmium pigments are a little harmful, and can be toxic in certain. Today, they have been all but banned from being used on things like toys, and are now being replaced by another industrial pigment called azo, which is believed to be non-toxic.

- <https://artfilemagazine.com/famous-red-paintings/>
- [https://www.google.com/search?q=Donald+Judd+red&source=lmns&tbm=vid&bih=775&biw=1600&client=firefox-b-1-d&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewivxqmfrOn8AhWzAEQIHVm1B14Q\\_AUoA3oECAEQAw#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:31ceb652,vid:R7FRmhsTghE](https://www.google.com/search?q=Donald+Judd+red&source=lmns&tbm=vid&bih=775&biw=1600&client=firefox-b-1-d&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewivxqmfrOn8AhWzAEQIHVm1B14Q_AUoA3oECAEQAw#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:31ceb652,vid:R7FRmhsTghE)









# Li Keran

Red is probably the favorite color in the hearts of Chinese people. In Chinese culture, red usually means something vigorous, enthusiastic, inspiring or auspicious. It's also a common color in classical paintings.

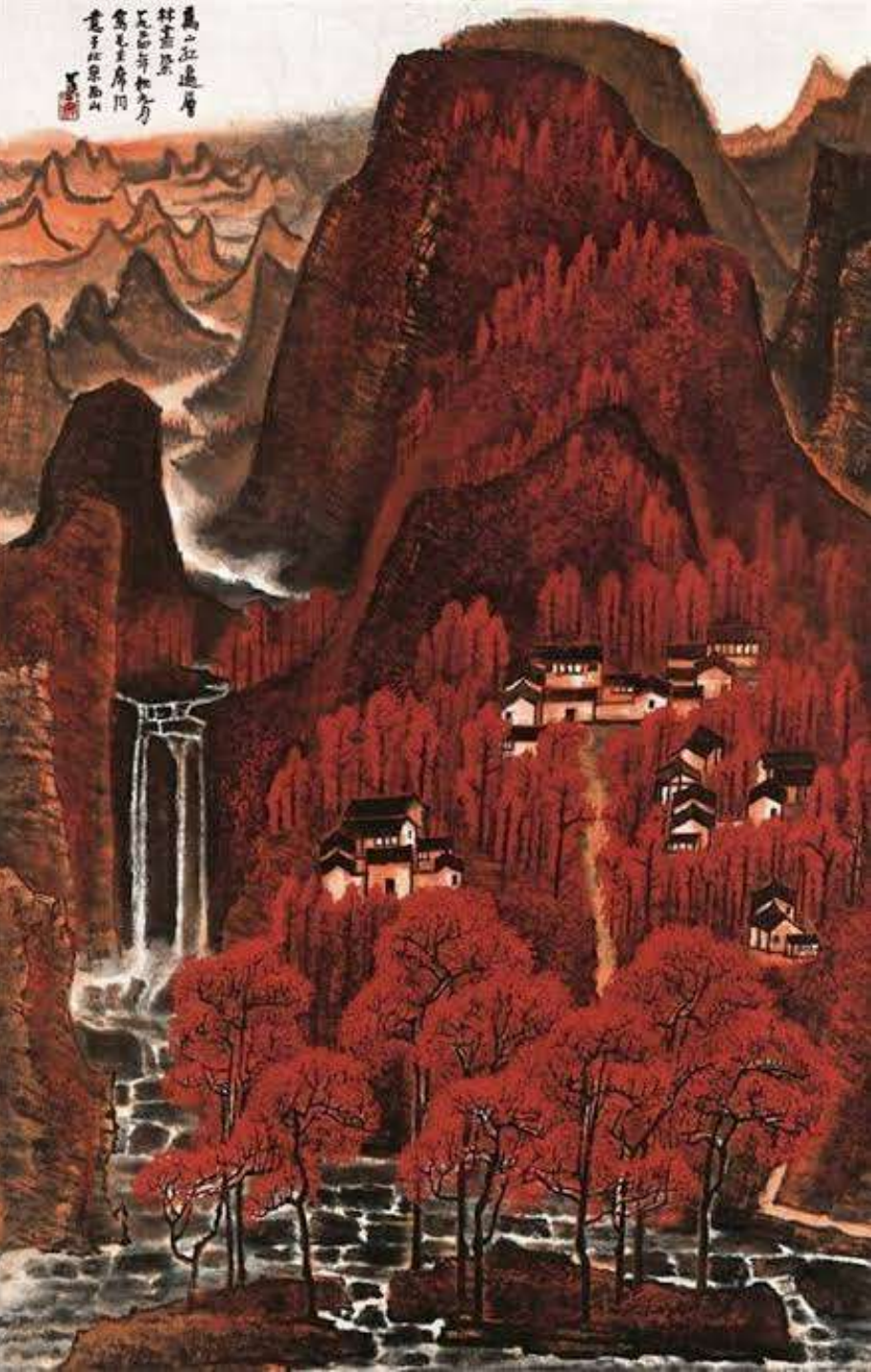
The famous painting "Ten Thousand Mountains Bathed in Red" is a representative series work in the case. Created by Chinese artist Li Keran, the artwork opened a new chapter in the use of red in Chinese landscape paintings.

The documentary series "Fine Arts in China" produced by China Media Group revives the real situation of the classic painting, vividly presenting the stunning late autumn scenery of south China and immersing spectators in its magnificent red foliage.

<https://www.facebook.com/chinaplusnews/videos/818477235839239/>

<https://www.facebook.com/chinaplusnews/videos/606648211054002/>

<https://www.facebook.com/chinaplusnews/videos/606648211054002/> (11 minutes)







# John Brack

John Brack was an Australian painter, and a member of the Antipodeans group. According to one critic, Brack's early works captured the idiosyncrasies of their time "more powerfully and succinctly than any Australian artist before or since.

- <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/multimedia/john-brack-the-artist/>





# Sea Hyun Lee

South Korea's traditional illustrative and art history is immovable; however, cultural and artistic experimentation will always be relentless. Sea Hyun Lee demonstrates his understanding of just how true the above statement is through his art. He manages to join the two forces of past and present together to create *Between the Red*.

Get ready to be transported to a fragmented, blood-orange land with artist Sea Hyun Lee. These oil paintings (yes, oil paintings) depict mountainous islands reminiscent of Never Never land, each one floating in a sea of milk. Dreamlike as they may be, this jagged landscape actually represents the mountains of North and South Korea, so heavily saturated in red that they are almost flushed with arteries.

Union Gallery describe the paintings as "Deeply personal works that reference Lee's own sense of the past and its losses. Here, Lee tarries with two familiar ideas: nostalgia and utopia. But he avoids approaching either with mere simplicity or mere skepticism. Instead, his paintings are infused with a sophisticated sense of nostalgia, and a wry idea of utopia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyCqUbabFMM&t=27s> (Korean)













# Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

As a response to the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in North America in 1992, the artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, created a large mixed-media canvas called *Trade (Gifts for Trading Land with White People)*. *Trade*, part of the series "The Quincentenary Non-Celebration," illustrates historical and contemporary inequities between Native Americans and the United States government.

She applied blocks of white, yellow, green, and especially red paint over the layer of collaged materials. The color red had multiple meanings for Smith, referring to her Native heritage as well as to blood, warfare, anger, and sacrifice. With the emphasis on prominent brushstrokes and the dripping blocks of paint.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/jaune-quick-see-smith-4505>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7G44YsCcBg&t=16s>













# Anish Kapoor

[Anish Kapoor](#) is eager to explore the emotional content that emanates from the objects he creates. Kapoor works with universal cultural narratives. He explores the wider myths that have grown out of human society and tries to tap into the ways those myths might resonate with individual viewers who encounter his work. Color is a vital element of his work, as it ties in so broadly to the myths of contemporary culture.

One of the most interesting examples of how Kapoor has used the color red is exemplified by his 1981 installation titled To Reflect an Intimate part of the Red. The piece consists of multiple biomorphic forms that seem to have arisen out of piles of red dust, as if the pigment became manifest, assembling itself according to unknown intuitions. The way the objects are exhibited suggests the forms are only temporary. Kapoor truly elevates the color red, as the importance of the color as represented by the material itself manifests as the subject of the work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd2ymsRSG0E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlnhAqbkhq0&t=20s>

<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s10/anish-kapoor-in-london-segment/>









# Assignment Suggestions...

- Create an artwork primarily using the color red
- Think about what the color red evokes in you and create an artwork that expresses that feeling.
- Play with cochineal. You can probably find it on your prickly pear cacti.