

Today:

- **Lecture on Chapter Two:
Developing Visual Literacy**

Visual Literacy:

- Refers to the ability to describe an image and your reaction to it.
- Involves going beyond saying “I like this,” or “I don’t like this”



Willem de Kooning, *North Atlantic Light*, 1977

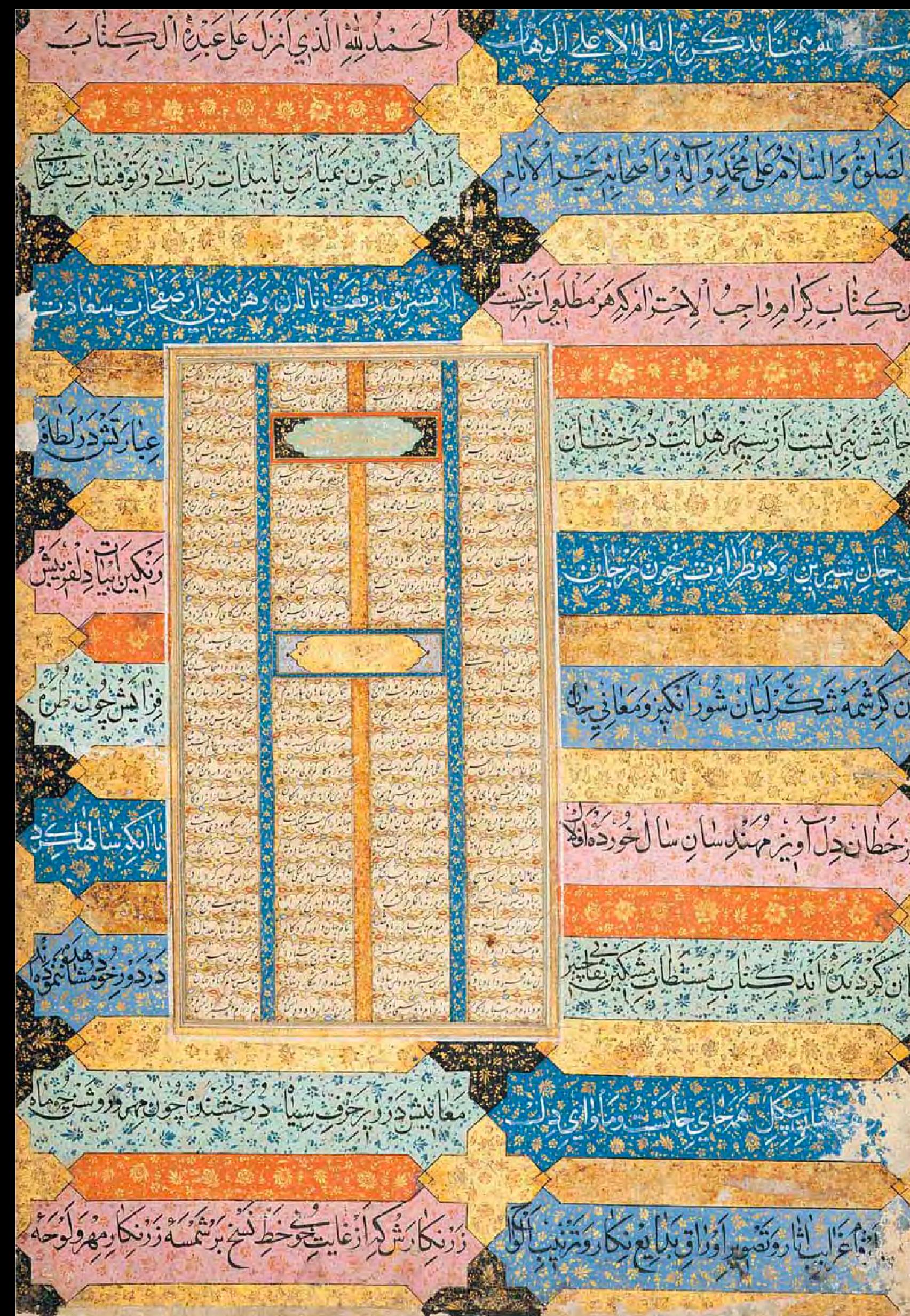
Words and Images



René Magritte, *The Treason of Images*, 1929



Shirin Neshat, *Rebellious Silence*, 1994



Triumphal Entry, page from a manuscript of Firdawsi's *Shahnamah*, Persian, Safavid culture, 1562-83.



Wood panel, early Islamic art, 8th century CE



Protestants destroying the Church of Our Lady in Antwerp in 1566

Representation and Abstraction

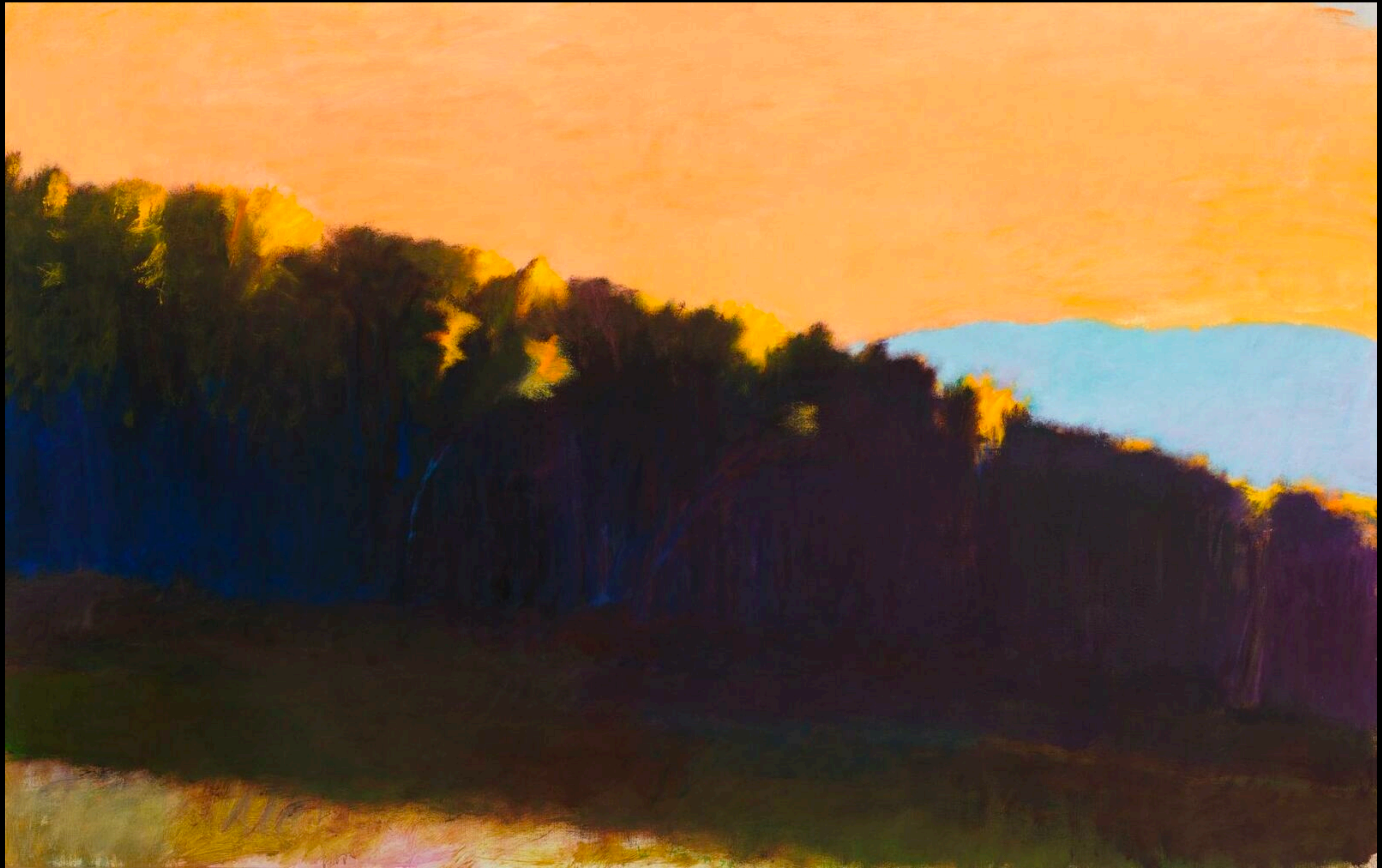
Representational art portrays the world around us in a recognizable and naturalistic manner.

Abstract art involves degrees of independence from references to the real world.

Non-objective art does not refer to recognizable objects in the world at all.



Albert Bierstadt, *Puget Sound on the Pacific Coast*, 1870



Wolf Kahn, *Afterglow I*, 1974

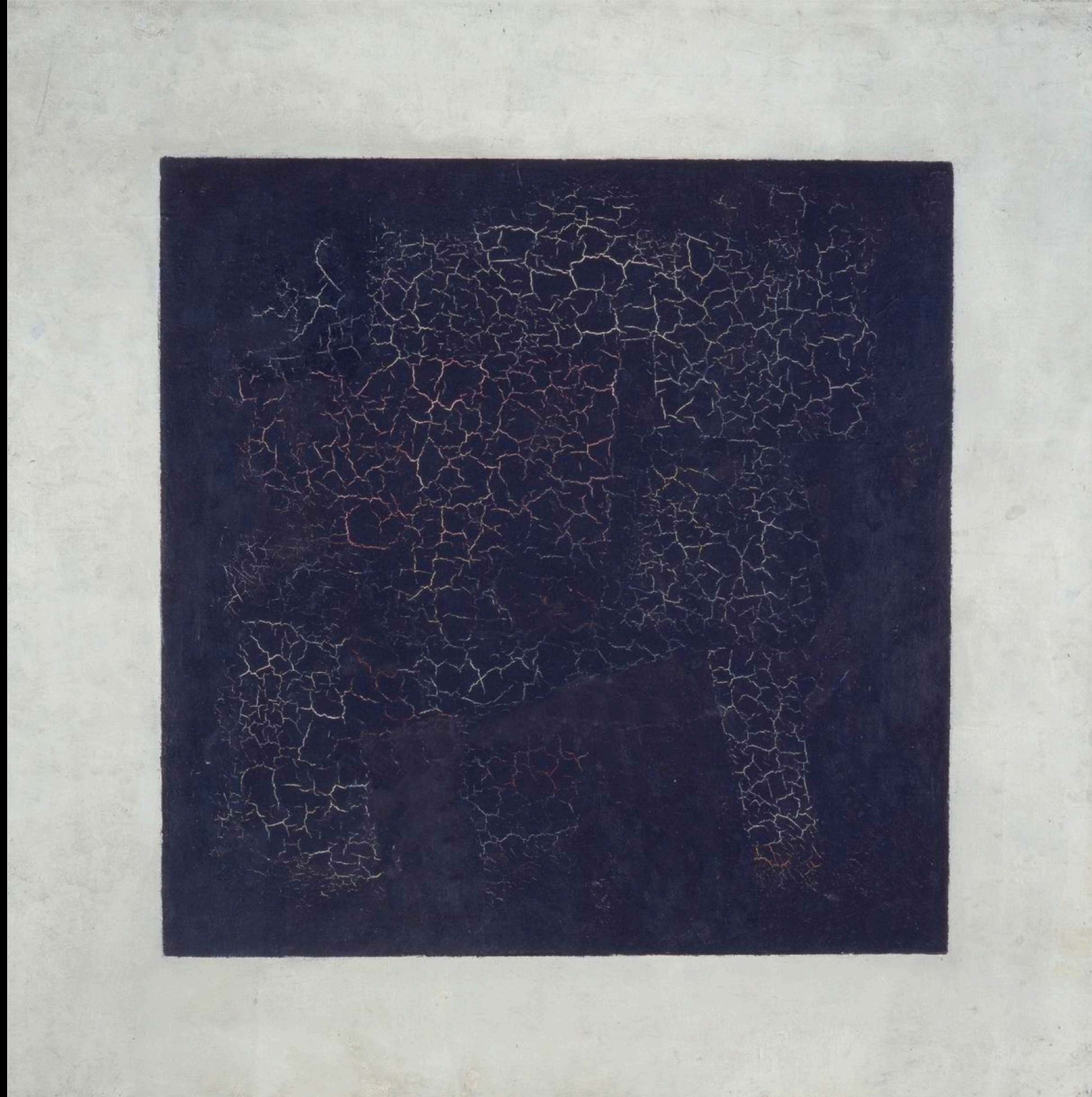


Old Mick Tjakamarra, *Honey Ant Dreaming*, 1982



Wassily Kandinsky, *Composition VII*, 1913

Form and Meaning



Kazimir Malevich, *Black Square*, 1915





Beatriz Milhazes, *Carambola*, 2008

Convention, Symbols and Interpretation



Apollo Belvedere, Roman copy
of Greek statue, 4th century BCE



African dancing mask from
Ulivira, Lake Tanganyika

Iconography: a system of visual images that conveys meaning

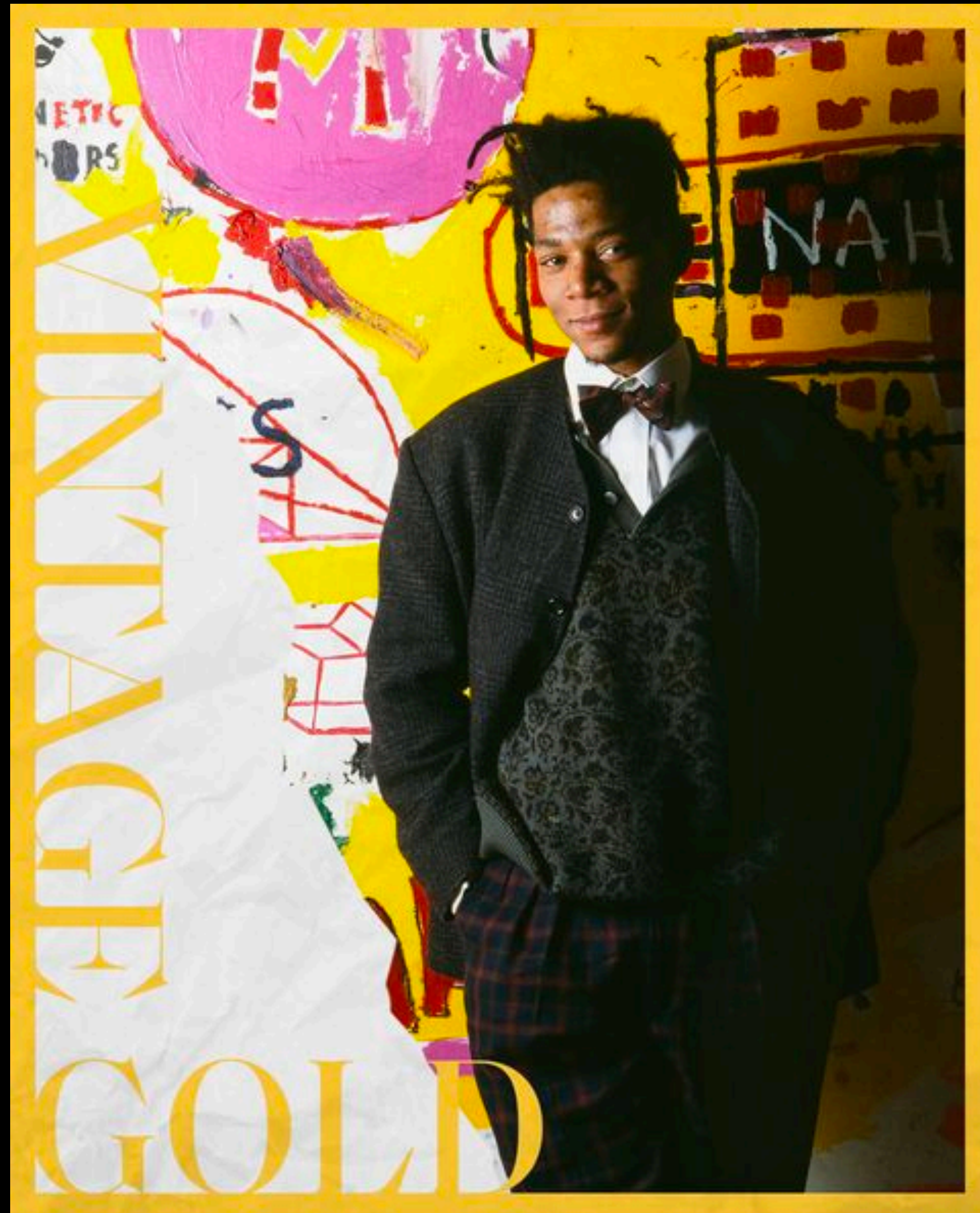
Symbols: images that represent something beyond their literal meaning



Jan van Eyck, *Giovanni Arnolfini and His Wife Giovanna Cenami*, c. 1434



SAMO graffiti c. 1978



Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1985)



Basquiat, *Red Skull*, 1980



Basquiat, *Untitled*, 1982



Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Charles the First*, 1982

Summary:

- **Developing visual literacy**
- **The relationship between words and images**
- **Differences between representation and abstraction**
- **Form vs. content**
- **Cultural conventions, iconography, symbolism**

Discussion board post #1:

- 1) Now that you have become familiar with some key terms and vocabulary from art history, it's time to test out these new skills. Choose one artwork that has appealed to you from the lectures or readings so far, and visually analyze the work using terms associated with your newfound visual literacy. Think about form, content and the cultural context in which the work was produced. Feel free to add in your own interpretation, or ask a question.
- 2) Comment on the posts of two other people — ask a question, answer one of theirs, or give them feedback on their analysis.

Wednesday:

- Read Chapter Three
- Complete the first discussion post on D2L (start during class + complete by the end of the day)