

## Reappraising abstract paintings after exposure to background information

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Painter	Title of painting	Normalized mean aesthetic appraisal (0-1)	Individual difference (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z)
Willem De Kooning	Untitled XVII	0.520	5.097
Hans Hartung	T1957-13	0.467	4.574
Yves Klein	Anthropometries series 127	0.466	3.622
Paul Klee	Gespenster Abgang	0.454	3.207
Jackson Pollock	Number 12	0.439	2.901
Jasper Jones	0 through 9	0.436	2.962
Damien Hirst	Methamphetamine	0.431	3.207
Gehard Richter	Maria	0.430	2.851
Victor Vasarely	Jong (Jone)	0.427	3.013
Barnett Newman	The Word II	0.410	2.916
Josef Albers	Study for homage to the square: Looking ahead	0.389	3.712
Ellsworth Kelly	Yellow curve	0.381	3.708

**Table A in S2.** Candidate paintings and the subject's responses for the perception-based aesthetic appraisal.

## Supplementary Information S2 Results

Paintings							
							
Attention modulated by Artist's commentary							
0.560±0.083	0.420±0.020		0.610±0.065	0.560±0.090	0.410±0.099		0.480±0.062
0.031	0.022		0.012	0.006	0.023		0.014
0.41	0.77		0.57	0.42	0.51		0.33
0.420±0.100	0.350±0.080		0.350±0.073	0.290±0.028			-0.140±0.054
0.018	0.009		0.043	0.01			0.013
0.47	0.6		0.47	0.51			0.67
0.130±0.024	-0.170±0.053		-0.210±0.029	0.180±0.032			
0.018	0.011		0.044	0.033			
0.22	0.6		0.66	0.26			
-0.260±0.025	-0.240±0.033		-0.220±0.017	0.150±0.047			
0.048	0.02		0.042	0.041			
0.65	0.62		0.53	0.26			
-0.270±0.081	-0.240±0.030			-0.140±0.030			
0.041	0.01			0.009			
0.61	0.39			0.77			
				-0.530±0.052			
				0.03			
				0.42			
Number of cells showing significant differences							
5(3:2)	5(2:3)	0	4(2:2)	6(4:2)	1(1:0)	0	2(1:1)
Attention modulated by Critic's commentary							
0.400±0.090	0.590±0.084		0.610±0.092	0.720±0.088	0.700±0.092	0.520±0.064	0.690±0.047
0.031	0.034		0.026	0.015	0.018	0.021	0.044
0.34	0.57		0.59	0.68	0.69	0.62	0.66
0.340±0.044	0.540±0.070		0.560±0.039	0.710±0.058	0.450±0.065	0.380±0.053	0.540±0.097
0.017	0.011		0.037	0.026	0.032	0.012	0.009
0.75	0.63		0.75	0.54	0.28	0.6	0.39
0.250±0.020	0.490±0.075		0.370±0.079	0.400±0.026	0.200±0.081	0.360±0.073	0.440±0.071
0.017	0.026		0.043	0.009	0.014	0.022	0.048
0.26	0.63		0.65	0.25	0.69	0.36	0.22
0.180±0.066	0.470±0.080		0.140±0.018	0.360±0.075	0.190±0.047	0.350±0.029	0.370±0.085
0.006	0.031		0.008	0.02	0.022	0.043	0.025
0.45	0.3		0.39	0.24	0.23	0.38	0.79
-0.450±0.029	-0.340±0.016		-0.220±0.035	0.230±0.077	0.180±0.098	0.340±0.079	0.340±0.068
0.048	0.048		0.033	0.006	0.026	0.007	0.03
0.43	0.41		0.47	0.36	0.74	0.77	0.52
-0.530±0.028	-0.460±0.076		-0.340±0.058	-0.230±0.031	0.130±0.018	0.290±0.017	-0.200±0.052
0.024	0.02		0.044	0.033	0.011	0.045	0.024
0.47	0.42		0.41	0.28	0.56	0.25	0.5
-0.540±0.084	-0.550±0.025		-0.490±0.087	-0.380±0.088	-0.220±0.070	0.270±0.031	-0.270±0.075
0.04	0.038		0.027	0.009	0.036	0.04	0.019
0.51	0.75		0.59	0.68	0.27	0.24	0.28
-0.600±0.057	-0.560±0.048		-0.530±0.093	-0.390±0.095	-0.230±0.093	-0.240±0.027	-0.320±0.064
0.037	0.008		0.008	0.037	0.032	0.042	0.044
0.29	0.24		0.49	0.64	0.51	0.45	0.54
-0.610±0.060	-0.670±0.095		-0.540±0.030	-0.510±0.035	-0.270±0.039	-0.250±0.027	-0.380±0.061
0.033	0.037		0.009	0.038	0.025	0.039	0.01
0.37	0.23		0.76	0.67	0.72	0.55	0.52
-0.670±0.076				-0.540±0.097	-0.340±0.028	-0.440±0.096	-0.390±0.058
0.038				0.02	0.026	0.043	0.046

