



Speaker: One of the common points between the four movements of the avant-garde is an interest in abstraction. To be abstract, subject matter is either non-existent, or the color and forms of the subject matter are transformed to present a unique and fresh view. There are three different modalities of abstraction. The first is expressive. These abstract works are highly expressive with free brush strokes and liberal uses of color.

You can observe *Dance Around the Golden Calf* by German expressionist, Emil Nolde, as an example of this very expressive form of abstraction. The formal style of abstraction was very structured and controlled, and like the works of Cézanne, altered and reduced forms to smaller ideas. The cubism of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque are examples of this formalist interpretation of abstractions. Lastly, there is fantasy which delves into the world of imagination in a dreamlike fashion like some of the works you see by Russian painter, Marc Chagall.

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