

Name _____

Mark Rothko: The Colors of Emotion
Short Answer Questions Answer Key

1. Mark Rothko's early life influenced his career as an artist by sparking his interest in art, which he pursued through formal art education. His immigrant background and upbringing in the United States also exposed him to diverse cultural influences that would later inform his art.
2. Mark Rothko's paintings feature large, rectangular blocks of color that are softly blurred and often overlap. He used color to convey emotions by carefully selecting hues and their arrangement to create a sense of depth and luminosity, evoking feelings of tranquility, spirituality, or introspection.
3. Rothko faced challenges with the commercialization of his art as it became more famous. He was committed to the idea that his paintings should be experienced on a personal and emotional level rather than treated as commodities. These challenges were important to him because they raised questions about the true purpose of art and its relationship with commerce.
4. The Seagram Building murals are significant in Mark Rothko's career because they were commissioned for a prestigious location and were meant to be a major artistic achievement. However, Rothko ultimately withdrew from the project due to concerns about the mural's placement in a commercial setting.
5. When Mark Rothko said, "I'm interested only in expressing basic human emotions," he meant that his primary focus as an artist was to convey fundamental and universal feelings, such as joy, sorrow, and contemplation, through his art.

