

Student 2: High Merit

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Colin McCahon, Rita Angus, Jackson Pollock and Gretchen Albrecht are seen as very influential artists and all convey important ideas surrounding their culture and cultural experience.



In an article by Anthony White published in the National Gallery of Australia website: Jackson Pollock, *Before Blue Poles*, White discusses his viewpoints concerning Pollock's artwork *Blue Poles*, how he creates his work and how that links

to the idea of culture, From the publication of the article, it is evident that the article was intended for fans of Pollock's work, people who were just as eager as White to articulate the artwork and people who have an interest in attending the gallery. The tone of the article would also work for a wider audience of people to introduce them to Pollock's art culture. White begins his article by expressing how "Pollock's last monumental abstract painting, *Blue Poles*, is the final instalment in a series of works which have changed the course of modern art". White then expands this to explain that Pollock's painting is a key piece in art, changing and influencing the way the artists and audiences of our modern culture treat art, changing the way we view art and even understand what art can be. White justifies his view by referencing an interview with Pollock on the subject of "his unusual method of painting" where Pollock says that "the modern painter cannot express this age, the airplane, and the atom bomb, the radio in the forms of the Renaissance or of any other past culture". I personally find this to be an important quote because it emphasises that Pollock was expressing big changes in our change in culture and that as our cultural experiences evolve, our art has to change. White suggests that this is one of the motives behind Pollock's method of "pouring paint, either straight out of the can or with sticks and hardened brushes, directly onto a canvas placed on the floor."

White further adds that "Pollock felt that his painting technique reflected... 'the inner world' [in conjunction with] the cultural experience of the time he was living in." Here White is indicating that Pollock's art also explored the culture of the self, in relation to wider society. This is made visible through the viewer's experience of the painting, 'Blue Poles', with "the black, white, brown and blue-green arcs of flung paint on unprimed canvas [that] seem to cartwheel before the viewer's eyes in a majestic sense of colour". The way in which White explains Pollock's application of paint connects with our personal, cultural and social ideas about painting and emphasises how artists and audiences and art and culture go hand in hand.

Having explored these artists through the writings of Anthony White, Deborah Hart and Catharina Van Bohemen, it is apparent that there is a close relationship between culture and creative changes. The writers have all given me a clear view of how much culture impacts on artists and hw much impact artists have on culture.

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