

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Courtland Blade

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: December 9, 2016

World Religion: Buddhism

Teaching Module Title: The reflection Buddhism in Art in the US

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the idea of Buddhism as an influence in various art movements in the US.
2. Explore the effects that the “Zen decade” may have had on artists like Ad Reinhardt, and how these concepts may have affected his work.
3. Compare works of art from the East and the West during the modern period that both have influences from Buddhism.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

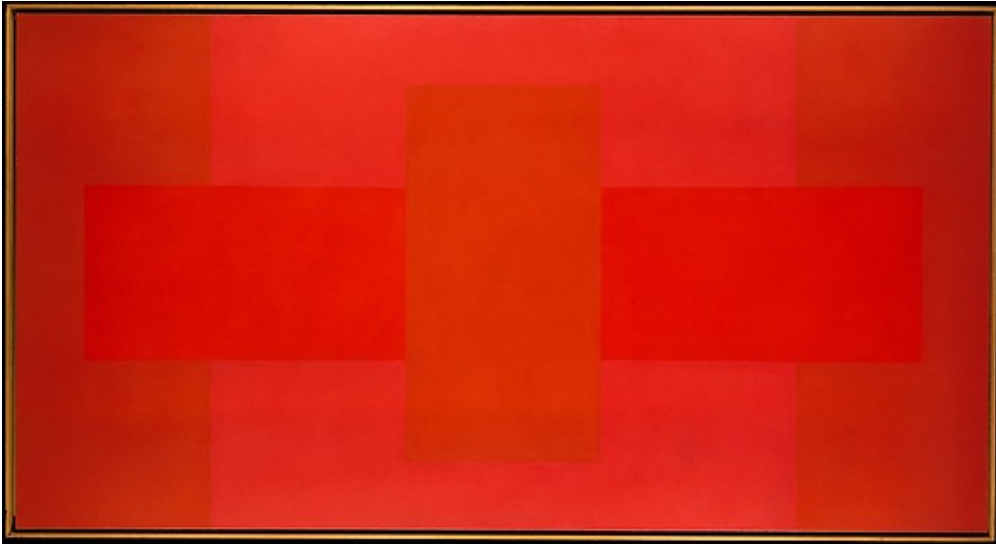
1. Bowker, *World Religions* pg. 60-61 and 78-79.
2. *Art History* Volume 2 pgs. 812.
3. *How Zen Catalyzed Conceptual Art* by Daniel Larkin.
4. <http://hyperallergic.com/63002/how-zen-catalyzed-conceptual-art/>
5. Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History.
6. http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/zen/hd_zen.htm

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

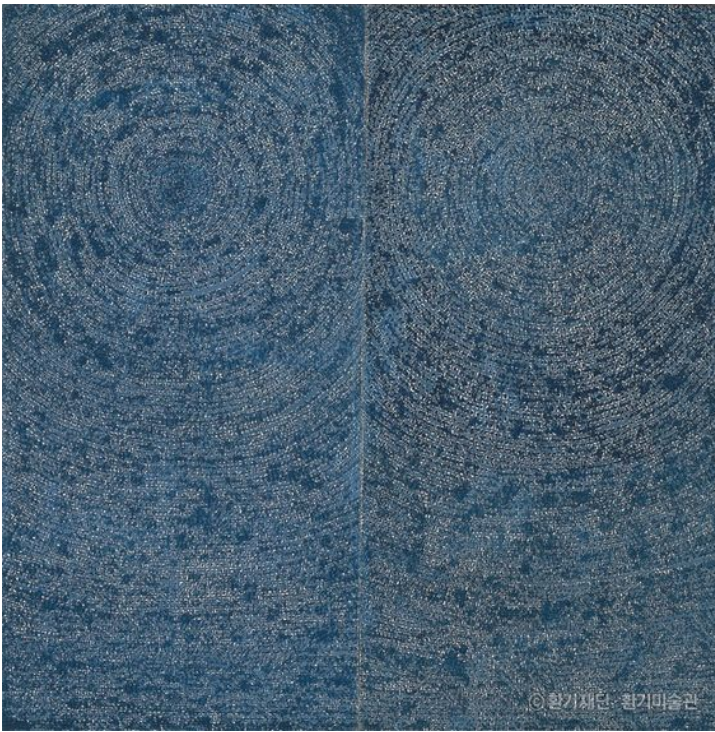
1. What is Zazen?
2. How is Zazen tied to active meditation?
3. How could active meditation be tied to the process of art making?
4. How could the Zen decade have effected artists like Ad Reinhardt?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

In this paper, you will discuss “5-IV-71” by Gim Hwangi and the “Red” painting by Ad Reinhardt. How do these works of art reflect the culture, beliefs of Buddhist? Specifically, Zen Buddhism. What shifts do we see in the process and approach of making paintings like these that may be tied to Zen Buddhism’s spread in the United States. Address these questions in a word document in either MLA, APA, or Chicago style format; with a minimum of two pages.



Red Painting by Ad Reinhardt, 1952 Oil on canvas



Gim Hwangi 5-IV-71, Korea. 1971. Oil on canvas, 39 1/2" x 39 1/2".