

Mark Rothko

Peter Rock

Biography¹

- ❑ Born Markus Rothkowitz in Dvinsk, Russia on September 25, 1903
- ❑ Immigrated to America with his family in 1913
- ❑ Dropped out of Yale after two years and moved to New York
- ❑ Mentored by Arshile Gorky at Parson School of Design
- ❑ Before moving to New York had no training in Art
- ❑ Artistic ability largely innate²

Artistic Career

- ❑ Begin work in realism
- ❑ Developed Color Fields Painting technique by the late 1940's
- ❑ Seagram's Murals



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¹ The Museum of Modern Art. "Mark Rothko | MoMA." Accessed February 27, 2020. <https://www.moma.org/artists/5047>.

² "Mark Rothko: 100 Famous Paintings Analysis & Biography." Accessed February 27, 2020. <https://www.mark-rothko.org/>.

³ "Mark Rothko - Orange and Red on Red." Accessed February 26, 2020. https://www.phillipscollection.org/research/american_art/artwork/Rothko-Orange_and_Red+.htm.

Critical Reception

- ❑ Understanding of Rothko's work as aniconic, representing dramas⁴
- ❑ Process of deflection⁵
- ❑ Brilliant work that is pragmatic, sensual, and acts as a self-fulfilling prophecy⁶
- ❑ "it is to take a journey into the intimate depths of human existence"⁷
- ❑ Widely regarded as a great artist of his generation⁸



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⁴ Rosen, Aaron. "Finding Rothkowitz: The Jewish Rothko." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 12, no. 3 (November 2013): 479–92. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14725886.2013.843865>.

⁵ Pappas, Andrea. "HAUNTED ABSTRACTION: Mark Rothko, Witnessing and the Holocaust in 1942." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 6, no. 2 (July 2007): 167–83. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14725880701423055>.

⁶ Kozloff, Max. "Mark Rothko's New Retrospective." *Art Journal* 20, no. 3 (1961): 148–49. <https://doi.org/10.2307/774217>.

⁷ Evans, Brad. "Wounds in Time: Why We Need Rothko More Than Ever." BLARB (blog). Accessed February 27, 2020. <https://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/essays/wounds-time-need-rothko-ever/>.

⁸ GLUECK, GRACE. "Mark Rothko, Artist, A Suicide Here at 66: Mark Rothko, Abstract Expressionist, Is Suicide in His Studio." *New York Times*. 1970.

⁹ "Red on Maroon Mural by Mark Rothko." Accessed February 27, 2020. <http://www.markrothko.org/red-on-maroon-mural/>.