

Turner
Contemporary

ed

Clark



resource

Ed Clark was an artist who pushed the boundaries of painting. He was described as a 'pioneer' which means someone who is not afraid to try new things. We will look at 3 aspects of Clark's work: **Material, Form, and Colour.**

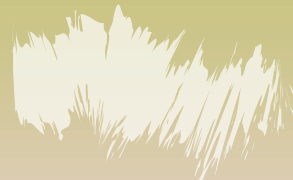
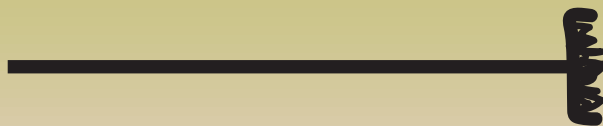
Clark was born in New Orleans in 1926 and, as a young man, served as a pilot and then clerk in World War II. The government rewarded Clark for his services in the form of credits called the 'G.I Bill'. He used his credits to study art in Chicago and then Paris. This was the start of his artistic journey.

Material

He was interested in paint as a material and the effects he could create by brushing, pouring and splattering it across a canvas.

"It struck me that if I paint a person - no matter how I do it - it's a lie. The truth is in the physical brushstroke and the subject of the painting is the paint itself."

Can you see all the different brush strokes used in the artwork 'Locomotion' (1963)? How many can you spot?



As you go through the exhibition, you will see the development of Clark's work transform from controlled horizontal brushstrokes to a loose sweep, showing his physical movement.

Discover more about
Ed Clark on here



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Form

In the late 1950s, Clark developed a technique called “The Big Sweep”

with the use of a push broom. The 48-inch broom allowed Clark to create large paint strokes filled with many colours, which he swept across large canvases placed on the floor.

Clark’s curiosity in textures and forms led him to experiment with other techniques such as: pouring paint, shaking dry pigment onto the canvas, and using his hands to rub pigment into the paper.



The Big Sweep

What tool would you choose to create a painting with?

The shaped canvas

Many people think Clark was the first artist to make shaped canvases. Some described feeling like they were inside his paintings. One way he achieved this was by using ovals, like the shape of an eye: an ‘ellipse’.

ellipse

What shape would you make your painting?



**How would you move the broom stick?
Could it be a dance?**

Colour

Clark’s colour palette was influenced by his travels. His paintings act as a portal, transporting you to different locations around the world.

Clark would take paper and dry pigment on his travels to directly respond to the environment and capture the colour and atmosphere he was in.



Look at the colours used for ‘Ife Rose’ (1974). What do they remind you of? The painting is inspired by his travels in Nigeria. Can you now imagine the landscape?

Which 3 colours would you choose to capture the atmosphere of Margate?

