

How palaeolithic art influenced later artists



Helen Frankenthaler 1951

Frankenthaler was an abstract expressionist painter, who drew inspiration from a broad spectrum of sources, from landscape to the figure, from palaeolithic cave paintings to the work of the old masters, and from mythical scenes to childhood memories.



Cave painting from Chumash Cave California dated 1000 AD
The cave artist did not work with the writing codes and conventions we have today, and so there is little structural composition as we know it. The meaning of the marks have long been forgotten, but you can see how Frankenthaler has used similar chaotic shapes and lines without traditional composition. The biggest difference between these two examples is the bold, bright colours Frankenthaler uses.